Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Should PSS put off the start of classes to mid-September when the power situation is expected to stabilize?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Nat'l Convention

Democrats celebrated Barack Obama's quest for the White House at the opening of their national convention.

NATION...Page 14

Plane Crash

A C-130 military transport plane disappeared after taking off in the southern Philippines.

ASIA...Page 15

Walk to School

School districts are forcing students to use the old-fashioned way to get to class: on their feet.

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Fitial blames PUC for current power crisis. **PAGE 2**
Trial moves to federal court due to outages. **PAGE 5**

Bush moves to make Pacific monuments

CRAWFORD, Texas (AP)—President George W. Bush on Monday proposed protecting three remote island chains, launching a marine conservation effort that could be one of the largest in history.

Bush

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Fitial seeks $400K

To fund lawsuit against federalization law

Reyes says he needs to be convinced; Sablan says it's a waste of public funds

Willens

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

In a presentation yesterday, the Fitial administration tried to convince the Legislature to give it about $400,000 that it says it will need to pursue the lawsuit against the federalization law. The amount will cover six to eight months in expenses related to the suit.

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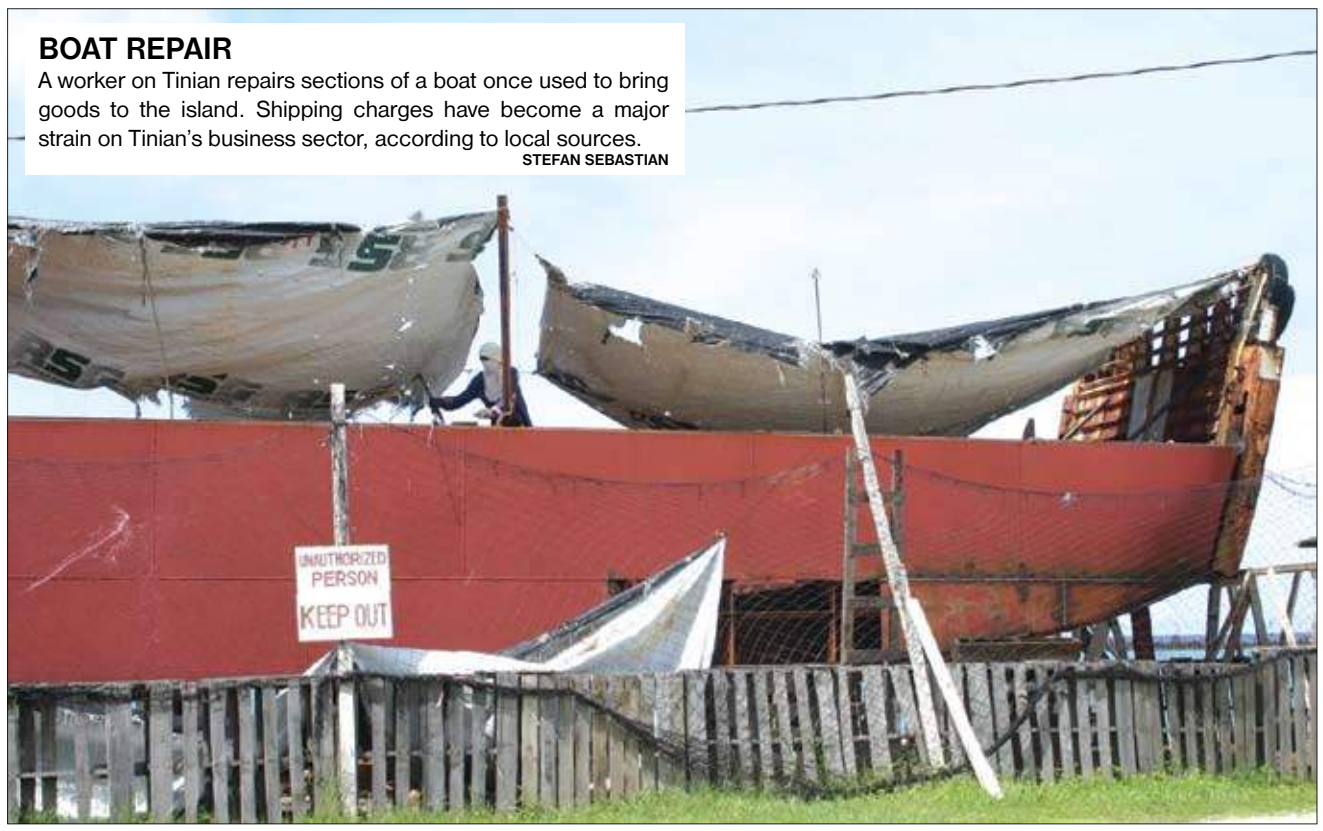

BOAT REPAIR
A worker on Tinian repairs sections of a boat once used to bring goods to the island. Shipping charges have become a major strain on Tinian's business sector, according to local sources.
STEFAN SEBASTIAN

Stores run out of generators, fans for sale

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Consumers on Saipan are snapping up electric generators and a host of battery-powered gadgets to cope with the worsening plague of blackouts on the island, and now demand is so high that hardware stores are running out of stock.

Generators have long sold as a hot item for retailers on Saipan due to the chronic outages on the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. power grid, yet consumer interest in them has risen in recent weeks, retailers say, as the frequency of the blackouts

See STORES on Page 4

Police nab 3 connected to 13 robberies

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Three San Vicente men have admitted to 13 cases of burglary and theft on Capital Hill, As Gonno, Papago and Kagman, Department of Public Safety officials said Tuesday. The men are also believed to be responsible for a string of copper wire theft cases reported since May.

Sheldon U. Remoket, 21; Roland S. Delos Reyes, 19; and Ken Pangelinan, 22, admitted to investigators they were responsible for the recent string of robberies this month. Remoket has been charged with assault and battery in the past.

See POLICE on Page 4

Delos Reyes

Pangelinan

Remoket

Local

COURTESY CALL CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial poses with Vice Admiral Mike Loose of the U.S. Navy, who paid Fitial a visit yesterday morning. Loose is a three-star Admiral and the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Fleet Readiness and Logistics, based in the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. Loose is a trained engineer and has been responsible for engineering commands in the U.S. Navy.

IN CLARIFYING STATE OF DISASTER DECLARATION

Fitial blames PUC for current power crisis

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said yesterday he suspended the procurement regulations through his recent declaration of a state of disaster emergency for the CNMI in order to ensure that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. could get the electric power flowing quickly and avoid any explosions at CUC's power plants in Lower Base.

In clarifying the emergency declaration, Fitial at the same time blamed the Public Utilities Commission for creating the power crisis with its interpretation of the words "public utility" and its demand for a halt in the temporary power deal with Aggreko International.

"PUC is not CUC management. It was never intended to be. And it certainly does not have the resources and expertise to manage a utility company," said the governor in his letter to Senate President Pete P. Reyes and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios.

Fitial wrote the letter in response to the two lawmakers' request for the governor to clarify the state of disaster emergency declaration he issued Aug. 1, 2008.

Reyes and Palacios specifically asked for clarification on the nature of the emergency declaration and the justification for, intent and extent of application of the declaration's Directive No. 2.

Directive No. 2 states that "the Commonwealth PUC Act of 2006, Public Law 15-35…is hereby suspended insofar as it would require the presentation of CUC procurement information, including contracts and other measures relating to the supply of power or the operation and maintenance of CUC's generation, for PUC review."

In his response yesterday, Fitial said the disaster declaration, and the directives that implement it, are focused on bringing CUC and the island's community life "back to health."

On the Directive 2 issue, the governor said his purpose is to have "no more potentially deadly delay based on legalistic interpretations of the PUC Act." He said the PUC Act does not require PUC pre-review of contracts.

But in PUC's July 29 letter, Fitial said, the commission insisted that PUC essentially substitute itself for CUC management, and review all contracts in advance.

"If [CUC executive director] Tony Muña is to solve our power crisis, we must not tie his hands with time-consuming, unnecessary bureaucratic pre-reviews," he said.

Fitial said the language of his directive makes clear that PUC is to focus on its main job—rates, charges and the cost of serving the citizens—and not on trying to run a utility company.

The governor emphasized that PUC can examine contracts at the proper time.

Citing background of the daily outages, Fitial recalled that the worsening power crisis on Saipan started three weeks ago.

Fitial said CUC power plant engineers had advised Muña to shut down Power Plant I before one of the power engines blew up.

"Part of the plant was already down, so we were experiencing daily blackouts," he said.

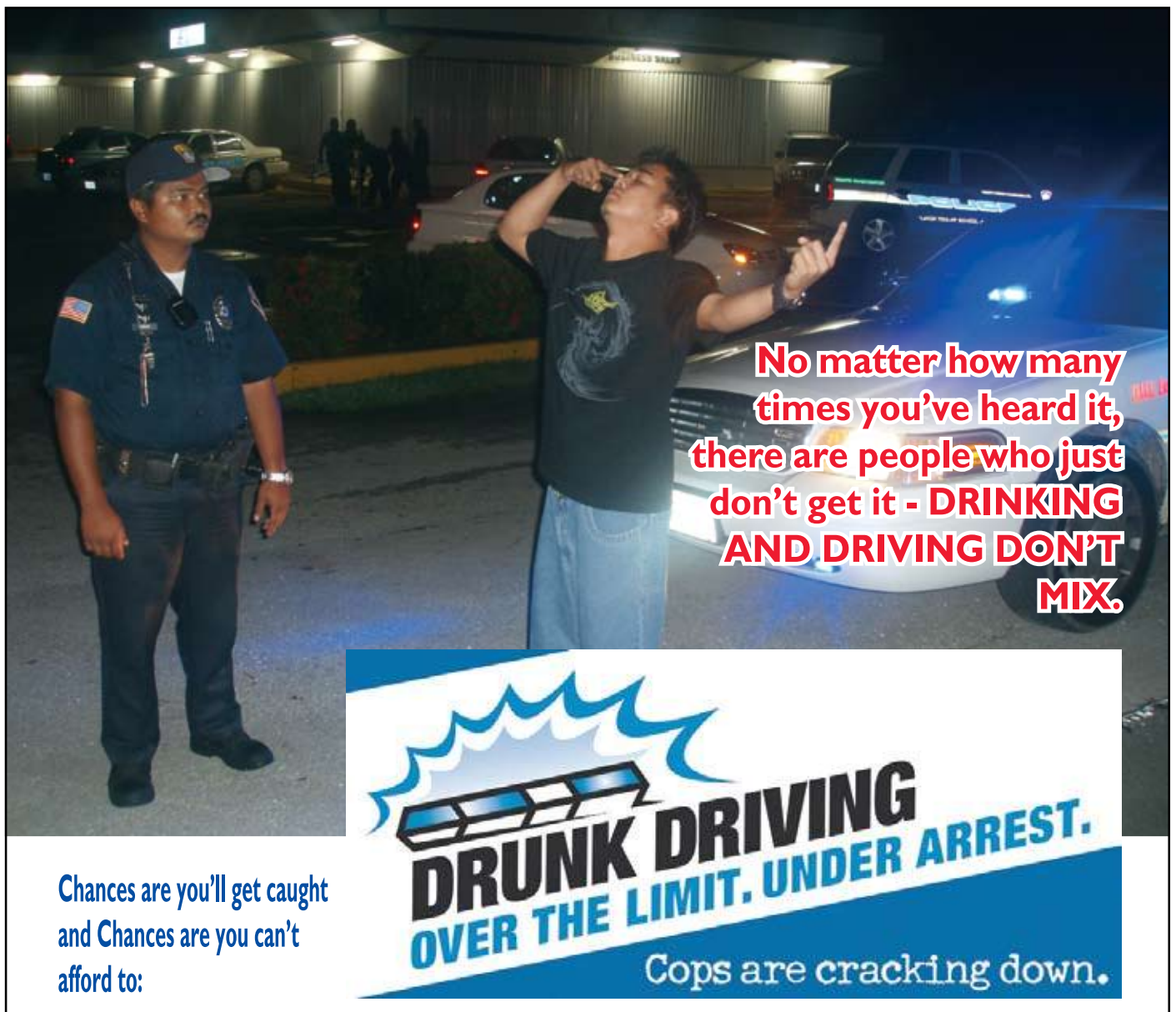
The governor said Muña moved quickly to hire "world-class European company, Aggreko," to provide temporary power to Saipan with no change in the electric power rates.

Fitial said CUC had previously done a public Requests For Proposals solicitation as the procurement regulations require. The previous leadership had, however, not acted on the open solicitation, he said.

"Meanwhile our electricity generators continued to fail, piece by piece," he pointed out.

The chief executive said the Aggreko deal was the right one

See FITIAL on Next Page


No matter how many times you've heard it, there are people who just don't get it - DRINKING AND DRIVING DON'T MIX.
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Cops are cracking down.
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Taxi association to address illegal cabs, tour companies

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Taxi drivers on Saipan are rallying to take on local cab companies operating without required licenses and insurance, a problem that has hurt law-abiding taxi operators on the island, according to the Saipan Taxi Association.

"Some people with private cars are working as a taxi service without a business license, without insurance and without meeting other requirements," said Rabby Syed, the association's president in an interview Tuesday. "They're killing our business."

Illegal cab companies are key among a host of issues the association plans to address in a meeting Sunday at American Memorial Park. Syed said the organization plans to poll its members on how to deal with the problem.

The impact on taxi drivers of tour companies that provide transportation to visitors as part of package vacation deals, he added, will also be on the agenda.

The meeting comes as the taxi association is in the early stages of forming a union, Syed said.

Meanwhile, the association also hopes to take up the issue of the local taxi bureau's rules for cab companies when they pay insurance. Currently, cab companies are required by the taxi bureau to show payment of their insurance fees on one receipt yet many want to pay for insurance in installments, Syed said.

The meeting will take place at 8pm.

FITIAL

From Page 2

to get CUC through the massive repairs that would take Power Plant 1 off line.

However, he said, PUC wrote CUC last July 29, demanding that they review the Aggreko deal and decide if an independent company like Aggreko could do business in the Commonwealth.

Fitial said PUC insisted that Aggreko was going to be a "public utility," and would need to go through the lengthy process of getting a special utility certificate from them and a pre-contract review process.

"But the PUC has no staff, and no experience yet in such matters. It was pretty clear that Tony Muña's efforts were going to fail, along with Power Plant 1," he said.

The governor said he understands the PUC Act provides that monopolies for power, water and wastewater treatment are regulated.

This means, he said that CUC's rates, charges and treatment of customers are to be reviewed by PUC similar to the law in 50 states.

Fitial, however, stressed that PUC does not pre-approve CUC's work and that the Commission is not a board of directors. Once CUC fixes the temporary power problem, PUC can review the contracts to see if there is any effect on rates.

"But if there is no effect, no PUC action will be needed," said Fitial, adding that such is the way things work everywhere else in the U.S.

Fitial said PUC caused the crisis because it took an overly literal view of some statutory language that seems to say that anything is a "public utility" which sells a "system" or a "facility" to the CUC.

PUC, he said, also demanded that it review all contracts before they are signed, even if there is no effect on rates.

Fitial expressed appreciation to the Legislature for its quick action that, according to the governor, helped forestall the crisis.

"You drew up a statute to exempt this temporary power deal from the PUC's reading of the term 'public utility'. It specifically required me to declare a disaster emergency before the definition would work," the governor said.

Fitial compared CUC and CNMI's economy to a very ill person that has been rushed by an overworked team to the hospital for emergency heart surgery.

And he compared PUC to an outside new committee that has just been learning how to use a scalpel.

"In a short time, we hope to see our patient well. We cannot stop the surgery while an outside committee, new on the job, learns which scalpel to use. We should not," Fitial said.

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'MVA eyeing Russian charter flights'

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

The Marianas Visitors Authority is now in talks with a Russian airline, Dalavia, on the prospect of establishing a new chartered flight service from Russia to Saipan, according to a confidential tourism industry source.

The talks, which began nearly one year ago, are still ongoing, the source says, yet Dalavia is considering the creation of charter flight service to Saipan on a biweekly basis.

News of the potential charter flight deal comes amid a significant upswing in Russian tourism to Saipan. While the total number of Russian visitors arriving in the CNMI has remained relatively low compared to arrivals from Asian markets like Japan and Korea, it saw a 158-percent increase in June over the same month in 2007, rising to 834 tourists, according to MVA statistics.

Tourism officials have long said that Russian visitors are a key demographic for Saipan. They tend to stay longer in the CNMI than other tourists and spend more.

According to a profile of Dalavia available on the Internet, the company is based in Khabarovsk, Russia and was founded in 1953 as Khabarovsk Aviation Enterprise.

MVA declined to respond to a request for comment.

ERRATUM

■ In yesterday's story, "Tudela sworn as new DPS chief," Commissioner Santiago Tudela's name was misspelled. We regret the error.

■ In the article titled "USS *Stethem* officers, AMMA directors join governor at 30th birthday of AMP" published Monday, Aug. 25, there were two names mentioned that were misspelled. The correct names are Sarah Creachbaum and Rafaela Perry. Creachbaum is the Superintendent of the National Park Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior while Perry played the CNMI anthem on a ukulele during the special occasion. Our apologies.

BUSH

From Page 1

Bush is considering conserving parts of the Northern Mariana islands in the western Pacific, as well as eight islands and coral reef atolls and their surrounding waters in the central Pacific that are part of the Line Islands and American Samoa.

The president signaled his intentions in a memo to members of his Cabinet and is now awaiting their advice on how to provide additional protection to the island chains. The archipelagos are home to a diverse array of fish, birds and other marine species that are rapidly vanishing elsewhere in the world, the memo said.

"These areas are host to some of the world's most bio-diverse coral reefs and habitat, and some of the most interesting and compelling geological formations in all of our oceans," White House spokesman Tony Fratto told reporters in Crawford, Texas, where Bush is on vacation at his ranch.

While an assortment of activities including commercial fishing, oil and gas exploration and deep sea mining could be allowed, barring extractive activities "would be one of the most significant environmental achievements" of any president, said Joshua S. Reichert, managing director of the Pew Environment Group.

Some territorial government agencies in the region oppose the move, however.

John Joyner, director of coastal resource management for the CNMI says there is no scientific evidence that the area around Saipan is not being managed successfully.

"It is so beautiful, so lush, and that lushness is the result of the traditional practices we have in place," Joyner said Monday from Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, where he is attending a seminar on coral reef protection.

The president has a range of ways to order environmental protection, with varying restrictions on development and fishing. In his memo, Bush did not indicate what type of protection would be offered for the three marine habitats under consideration.

Bush also made clear that he would protect the rights of the Department of Defense, which has active bases on two of the islands.

The conservation effort could be completed before Bush leaves office.

Environmentalists responded to the announcement as a hopeful sign.

Extended federal protection of the waters under monument status is unnecessary and would cut off subsistence fishing by natives of the area as well as plans for mineral mining and development of geothermal energy, he said.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has written Bush in opposition to the monument proposal.

STORES

From Page 1

has increased.

"With the current power situation, the demand has been a lot more than it was," said Ron Woolsey, general manager for Ace Hardware, in his Gualo Rai store Tuesday.

Like many other hardware stores on the island, Ace has now sold out of private generators, Woolsey said, but is expecting a shipment sometime in the near future. Added blackout survival tools are also selling fast, he said, such as battery-powered lanterns and flashlights. Ace Hardware recently sold almost its entire stock of battery-powered fans, he added, and had to get more.

"People want anything that can get them through the two or more hours they have with the power out," Douglas Hanson, manager of the Ace's Susupe branch.

Meanwhile, at Do-It-Best Hardware in Chalan Piao, manager Nonoy Huertas had much the same story, saying his store had also seen a major jump in consumers looking for home generators.

"It's everything," he said. "They want flashlights, generators, battery powered fans and lots of batteries."

Do-It-Best should soon replenish its stock of generators and fans, he added..

According to Woolsey, consumers in search of a gas generator to power their homes during a blackout have some important considerations to make such as the size of the generator's output.

"People have a tendency to buy generators that are too small than what they really need," he said, adding that some household appliances can require up to twice as much power to start than they need when operating.

Since home generators in the CNMI often get far more use than the average one, for example, on the mainland United States where outages are less common, a reliable engine is also important, he said. Honda and Subaru engines, he noted, have a strong track record of reliability.

Buyers should also weigh whether to purchase a generator powered on unleaded gas or a diesel model, which are quieter and more durable but also run on fuel that is more expensive, he said.

The most popular model for generator buyers, he added, are 5,000 watt models capable of powering most needs found in an average small home. These cost about $1,000, he said. Smaller 3,750 watt generators at Ace cost less, at about $900.

POLICE

From Page 1

The three men stole electronics items, such as iPods, DVDs, and TVs from homes, as well as portable generators from homes and restaurants, said George F. David, a detective for the Criminal Investigation Division of DPS,

"Anything fast they could sell on the street," added Sgt. Sylvan M. Rangamar, operations manager for the DPS Criminal Investigation Division.

Officers caught the suspects after victims and witnesses reported seeing a Mazda 3 sedan around their property prior to the thefts. Investigators found the car near Skyway Café. During questioning the men admitted to officers that they stole the property, David said. Approximately $5,000 in goods was recovered after the men were questioned.

Drug paraphernalia were also found inside the car at the time of the arrests, David said.

The men would "go out and sell [the stolen items] for fast cash; from there [they would] buy drugs," he added.

Police are searching for Joan B. Cabrera, who has a warrant out for her arrest in connection with forgery and theft

David said he believes the men initially began stealing copper wire from abandoned homes in May, but changed tactics to stealing electronics in the last month.

"They stopped that and made this their trend," he said.

David said it appears the men would monitor a home and wait for the owners to leave before breaking in by kicking in the front door or entering through a window screen and exiting the same way. The incidents occurred during the day, usually after lunch to mid-afternoon.

A recent burglary at the Glory Market in Chalan Kanoa, where two men with machetes cut the line of the cash register, is still under investigation, David said.

Despite the suspects' apprehension, David said the public should continue to make sure and secure their homes and property before leaving.

Also, police are searching for Joan B. Cabrera, who has a warrant out for her arrest in connection with forgery and theft. Cabrera allegedly stole checks and would go to stores and buy "whatever she needs," David said.

FITIAL

From Page 1

Senate President Pete P. Reyes said at this time he needs to be convinced that a lawsuit is necessary. House Speaker Arnold Palacios refused to comment.

Rep. Christina Sablan said that suing the federal government "is a waste of public funds."

"I think all it does is undermine even further our relations with the federal government and this is the time that we need help," Sablan said.

The closed-door presentation, which lasted for over two hours, was held in the House's chamber.

Saipan Tribune learned that Fitial gave a brief statement before allowing his special legal counsel, Howard Willens, to start the presentation. Volunteer consultant and Labor hearing officer Deane Siemer was with Willens.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* after the presentation, Willens said Fitial is interested in pursuing litigation to protect the Commonwealth's right to self-government under the Covenant.

Willens said the governor wants to consult with the Legislature before he makes the final decision.

He said that, after a brief comment, Fitial asked him to start the presentation, explaining the background of the legislation and their belief that labor provisions in the statute should be challenged.

"We're making a very important point here that we do not challenge the immigration provision of the law. The Covenant permits the federal immigration laws to be applied to the Commonwealth," he pointed out.

However, they believe that the federalization law goes far beyond that, he said, imposing a new and unprecedented federal regulatory system on the CNMI's workforce.

"We think that it has not been done anywhere else in the United States. We think it is unnecessary. We think it will have a very serious adverse effect on our economy," he said.

Willens pointed out to lawmakers some of the projections contained in the Government Accountability Office's report.

He cited that one of those projections suggested that the reduction of guest workers here over the next 10 or 15 years could lead to a 50- to 60-percent decline in the CNMI's gross domestic product.

"That is a devastating amount of injury to the Commonwealth economy. Because of those concerns, the governor has asked me to think hard about litigation and he's prepared to make that decision in the very near future," Willens said.

He said they have hired a Washington law firm called Jenner Block, an expert in constitutional law, and have met with members of the law firm, who have committed to take the case if Fitial wants to proceed.

When asked how much would it cost for the CNMI to hire the Jenner Block law firm, Willens said this is unclear because it depends on the length of time involved.

"But we think they have agreed to be paid at a level of $50,000 a month. We think that the initial stage of the proceeding might take six to eight months," he said.

In that period, he said, they would perhaps have a critical decision from the federal district court that would give them some idea whether the CNMI wishes to pursue the matter or begin negotiations with federal agencies.

Willens said they are requesting funding from the Legislature to support the lawsuit.

He said the governor believes a lawsuit of this importance to the Commonwealth should be supported by public funds and that Fitial hopes to have the support of the Legislature in that respect.

Willens said when a final decision is made, the lawsuit would be filed in Washington D.C.

"We think we have a very confident law firm. We are prepared to work hard on this lawsuit, ourselves through the Attorney General's Office. I think we will make a good showing for our client," he added.

Sen. Reyes said if it is in the best interest of the CNMI, then he needs to take a very close look at the issue.

" You cannot just dismiss that right away. But at this time, I need to be convinced that that is necessary," Reyes said.

Rep. Sablan said the purpose of the presentation was to make an argument for supporting the litigation against the federal government.

"I don't support it at all," she said.

Sablan said she asked at the end of the presentation if any public funds have been spent in the initial consultation with the law firm.

"They said no, but I understand that the consultation was funded by private sources," she said.

Sablan also asked how much the proposed litigation would cost the government if public funds are made available.

"I am not convinced that litigation is the best option or should be the first reason," she said.

If the CNMI is so worried about tens of thousands of workers being deported, then why not in the next two years petition them for residency, Sablan asked.

"There is nothing that prohibits us from asking for that now. It would make economic sense. Certainly, if especially their primary argument is that the loss of these foreign workers in such a short time frame would impact us tremendously, well, we're looking at workers who have been here for years, so why not petition for residency? And he [Willens] could not answer that!" the lawmaker said.

Sablan also suggested that perhaps the petition and negotiation with the federal government would be cheaper than suing them at this point.

Sablan said Sen. Maria Frica Pangelinan also asked in the presentation what public service would suffer as a result of bringing the lawsuit.

Trial moves to federal court due to outages

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

A Superior Court jury trial has been moved to the U.S. District Court due to power outages and a lack of generator fuel.

Superior Court Judge David Wiseman, who is presiding over the case, worked with U.S. District Court NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson to make the move, said Virginia Gridley, spokeswoman for the Superior Court.

"We want to thank Judge Munson for this courtesy," she added.

She said the Superior Court would continue to use the federal courthouse until further notice.

The Superior Courthouse had just a few hours of power Monday, and because of a lack of funds to buy more generator fuel, the court is rationing the fuel and only turning it on for one hour a day, Gridley said.

The court is using 50 gallons of fuel per hour and has 1,000 gallons left, she said.

Court officials are exploring other options and have been in contact with Antonio Muña, executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Gridley said.

"We understand the severity of this situation," she added.

Gridley said she could not go into details about the options officials are exploring.

Last week, Wiseman said the interruptions were forcing him to change his court calendar, a task that could have many repercussions, he said.

New MHS freshmen will be separated from upper grades

Marianas High School freshmen will be seeing less of their older counterparts this coming school year.

MHS is creating a freshman academy that will separate the 9th graders from the other students.

Incoming freshmen will take separate classes from the 10th, 11th and 12th grade students, MHS principal Karen Borja said. She said she hopes the move will lower the failure rate for 9th graders.

Last year, 21 percent of MHS freshmen failed, compared to 10 percent of 10th graders and 6 percent of 11th and 12th graders. The year before, nearly 30 percent of MHS freshmen failed, Borja said.

"It's like a school within a school," Borja said of the freshmen academy. "Hopefully [freshmen] won't be as intimidated, won't be influenced by peer pressure."

Ninth grade students will also have a separate lunch period from the other students and will not be allowed to leave campus for lunch, Borja said.

She said she is hoping a separate building for the freshmen will be ready by Oct. 1, when half of the 9th graders will be moved there.

The administration had been thinking about the separation for about a year, Borja added.

Although the move takes planning, "we feel the benefit will outweigh the scheduling for support staff," Borja said. ***(Kristi Eaton)***

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Late Placement Test:	August 25-29, 2008	M-Th	08:30-12:30 PM	K-1
Registration for Returning Students:	September 2-3, 2008	TW	10:00-06:00 PM	ABE
Registration for New Students:	September 4-5 , 2008	ThF	10:00-06:00 PM	ABE
Late Registration:	September 8-9, 2008	MT	08:00-05:00 PM	ABE
CASAS Appraisal Test	September 10-11, 2008	WTh	09:00-10:00 AM	K-1
			01:00-02:00 PM	K-1
			05:00-06:00 PM	K-1
CASAS Pre-Test	September 12 & 15, 2008	FM	09:00-10:30 AM	K-1
			01:00-02:30 PM	K-1
			05:00-06:30 PM	K-1
Student Orientation:	September 16, 2008	T	05:00-06:30 PM	D-1
CASAS Make-Up Tests	September 16, 2008	T	08:00-05:00 PM	K-1
Add/Drop for Students:	September 17-26, 2008		08:00-05:00 PM	ABE

First Day of Instruction:	MWF Classes	September 17, 2008 (Wednesday)
	TTh Classes	September 18, 2008 (Thursday)
	Saturday Classes	September 20, 2008
	Sunday Classes	September 21, 2008
Last Day of Instruction:	December 12, 2008	

This schedule is subject to change. For more information please contact the ABE Office at 234-5498 Ext. 1723 or 1724

This advertisement was paid for from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education.

9 congressional delegate hopefuls certified

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie-delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission has certified all nine U.S. congressional delegate hopefuls.

Election Commission acting executive director Julita Villagomez told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the certification of nine candidates was made during the election commissioners' meeting at the Civil Service Commission Friday morning.

Villagomez said the certification means all nine who filed their candidacy passed all the requirements to run in the Nov. 4 race.

Saipan Municipal Council member Felipe Atalig was the ninth and last person to file his candidacy on the deadline day—Aug. 6, 2008.

Before Atalig, high school teacher and Vietnam War veteran John Davis also filed his candidacy.

The seven other candidates are Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio, former senator David Cing, television talk show host John Oliver Gonzales, retired judge Juan T. Lizama, businessman Chong Won, Sen. Luis Crisostimo, and former Election Commission executive director Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan.

Villagomez said the drawing for the slots will be done today, Wednesday, at 9am at the Election Commission's office on Capital Hill.

The drawing, Villagomez said, would determine the arrangement on how the names of the nine candidates will be placed on the ballots.

60 oriented on AmeriCorps duties, privileges

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sixty students from across the CNMI have gathered at the Pacific Islands Club for the last three days to prepare for their upcoming year as AmeriCorps volunteers.

During the last two days, Public School System students have taken part in interactive presentations, including teaching reading, writing and vocabulary; brain research; and how to tutor.

"It's going awesome," CNMI/PSS AmeriCorps Program Director Geri Willis said. "It's a great opportunity for students."

The program received additional funding to increase the number of students who can become members from 45 to 60 this year, Willis said.

"It's just growing tremendously," she added.

Past AmeriCorps members shared their experiences at the orientation.

"I try to inspire [other students] to be a part of the program," said Nisha Shrestha, who is beginning her second year as a volunteer.

She said she encourages high school juniors and seniors to take part in the program because it helps everyone grow—the younger students as well as the high school students.

Last year, the 45 members volunteered approximately 30,000 hours, tutored more than 5,200 students, and brought up the reading levels for those students as high as three grade levels in one year, Willis said.

Two new site supervisors — Hopwood Jr. high principal Christine Tudela-Masga and Hopwood counselor Vanessa Mobel — will be new site supervisors. They will also be starting up an AmeriCorps club.

GTC Elementary site supervisor Katelyn Deleon Guerrero presented a lesson on reading and how the members can teach younger students to read.

"I joined just for the experience," she said. "It's a great opportunity to work with high school students."

AmeriCorps Program members are part of the Corporation for National and Community Service. They are paid a monthly stipend, and after the successful completion of 900 hours of community service, they are eligible for an Education Award worth $2,362.50. Members of the community can also volunteer for the organization.

KRISTI EATON

AmeriCorps members work on an interactive exercise during a presentation at the organization's orientation Monday.

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
Statewide Independent Living Council
3rd General Membership Meeting
PO Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950
TEL.: (670)322-6537 FAX: (670)322-6536
TTY (670) 322-6449 EMAIL:voc.rehab@saipan.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2008 Third General Membership Meeting on Friday, August 29, 2008-10:00A.M., at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, Chamolinian Room. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Welcoming

II. Preliminary Items
- Review and Adoption of Agenda
- Review and Adoption of Minutes of 04/09/08

III. Report
- Chairperson
- OVR Director
- Trip Reports

IV. Old Business
- Resource Allocation Plan
- Unfilled Vacancies

V. New Business
- Onsite Review by RSA
- Council Proposed Status

VI. Announcements

VII. Adjournment

Jerry McVicar
Jerry McVicar
Statewide Independent Living Council Chairman

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require special accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters/etc., are asked to call 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY). Please contact Magin Iginoef (Council Liaison) two days in advanced for necessary arrangements.

Publication of this notice is supported by federal funds under the United States Department of Education, Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
IFB 08-035

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, installation, and assembly of **MiniDV/HDV Camcorders and Accessories for Garapan Elementary School (GES)**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-035" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **September 24, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-035" CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3)-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.**

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/S/ Dr. Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting Procurement & Supply Officer

CHC belies 'closure' of in-house pharmacy

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Center has belied rumors about the closure of the government-operated pharmacy inside the hospital.

Speaking on behalf of Public Health Secretary Kevin Joseph Villagomez, who is on leave, department legal counsel Alex Gorman confirmed yesterday that the in-house or in-patient pharmacy is fully operational and it has never been closed.

Pharmacy staff declined to answer questions but pointed this reporter to acting Secretary John Flores, who referred the issue to the legal counsel.

Gorman said the closure rumor might have been a result of the recent veto made by the Governor regarding the exemption of professionals from the salary cap.

Last week, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial vetoed the bill allowing the government to pay medical and other professionals in various fields higher than the $50,000 annual salary cap.

The bill states that an exception to the ceiling on government salaries should be mandated so that the CNMI can attract and retain competent healthcare professionals and those in other fields.

The bill repealed and reenacted a certain provision on Public Law 15-81, exempting licensed medical professionals, Commonwealth-licensed attorneys, certified public accountants, surveyors, engineers and architects from receiving only the maximum annual salary of $50,000.

Medical professionals include physicians, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, clinical and counseling psychologists, physician assistants, psychiatrists, respiratory therapists, clinical social workers, among others.

There are currently two pharmacists as well as several other staff and technicians employed at the in-house pharmacy.

Gorman said this unit supplies all the medications for all the different departments in the hospital.

A private pharmacy, PHI Pharmacy, is also operating inside the hospital, located just at the main entrance of the building.

Woman files complaint vs Labor personnel

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A female guest worker has lodged a complaint with the police regarding an incident on Saturday at the National Office Supply parking lot where she said a man shouted at her using "profane language."

Gina H. Santos of Capital Hill said that around 4:30pm on Saturday, a certain John Limes Peter suddenly began shouting at her using foul language, accusing her of scratching his and his wife's car about three years ago.

Santos said it was an embarrassing incident as she was with her daughter Liza at the time of the incident.

She said Liza's classmates and friends as well as several customers also heard Peter cussing her.

Peter, Santos said, is an investigator at the Department of Labor.

Saipan Tribune tried to contact his office but the phone went unanswered.

Santos said a police report on the incident would come out Friday.

Meanwhile, Santos provided a copy of the result of a police investigation of an incident that happened on March 11, 2005, at the former Hotel Nikko in San Roque.

In that incident, Peter and his wife Ana Educalane De Los Reyes accused Santos of scratching their car.

A criminal mischief case was filed against Santos, but she said this was dismissed since no evidence was ever provided and "no proof that she was able to do such a nonsense, childish act."

According to the police report, Santos and De Los Reyes were former co-employees who had a falling apart.

DEPLOYMENT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sgt. Ray N. Yumul poses with Hawaii Gov. Linda Lingle during a deployment ceremony at Aloha Stadium in Honolulu on Aug. 16, 2008. Yumul is a third-term congressman.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Eleventh CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Thursday, August 28, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. at the BOE Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Bldg., Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary
- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda

II. Public Comments[1]

III. Reports
- a. Chair
- b. Board Committees
  - i. CIA
  - ii. CIP
  - iii. FPA
  - iv. LIA
  - v. School Reform
  - vi. Special Education & Early Childhood
  - vii. Private Schools
- c. Commissioner of Education
- d. Non-Public School Representative

IV. New Business
- a. NAG Prices Reimbursement for Vendors for SY '08-'09
- b. School Personnel Food Monitor Pay Differential Proposal
- c. NAG rebidding for SY '09-'10
- d. SPED Pay Differential proposal revised 8-12-08
- e. Annual Leaves Amendment
- f. Preparations for opening of the school
- g. House Bill Nos. 16-105, 16-106, 16-107
- h. Portfolio Pilot Project
- i. CNMI Teacher Shortage Area '09
- j. Governor Letter re Request Delay Opening of SY '08-'09
- k. Board priorities with new COE

V. Executive Session[2]
- a. Legal updates
- b. Personnel
- c. Other matters

VI. Miscellaneous Matters

VII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

VIII. Adjournment

1 Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
2 Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
STADT HAMBURG	021E	8/16 Sat	8/14 Thu	8/14 Thu	8/5 Tue	8/9 Sat	8/22 Fri	8/18 Mon	8/17 Sun	8/12 Tue	8/3 Sun	8/18 Mon	8/22 Fri	8/24 Sun	8/26 Tue
MELL SENOKO	009E	8/23 Sat	8/21 Thu	8/21 Thu	8/12 Tue	8/16 Sat	8/29 Fri	8/25 Mon	8/24 Sun	8/19 Tue	8/10 Sun	8/25 Mon	8/29 Fri	8/31 Sun	9/2 Tue
MELL SINGAPORE	014E	8/30 Sat	8/28 Thu	8/28 Thu	8/19 Tue	8/23 Sat	9/5 Fri	9/1 Mon	8/31 Sun	8/26 Tue	8/17 Sun	9/1 Mon	9/5 Fri	9/7 Sun	9/9 Tue
STADT HAMBURG	022E	9/6 Sat	9/4 Thu	9/4 Thu	8/26 Tue	8/30 Sat	9/12 Fri	9/8 Mon	9/7 Sun	9/2 Tue	8/24 Sun	9/8 Mon	9/12 Fri	9/14 Sun	9/16 Tue
MELL SENOKO	010E	9/13 Sat	9/11 Thu	9/11 Thu	9/2 Tue	9/6 Sat	9/19 Fri	9/15 Mon	9/14 Sun	9/9 Tue	8/31 Sun	9/15 Mon	9/19 Fri	9/21 Sun	9/23 Tue
MELL SINGAPORE	015E	9/20 Sat	9/18 Thu	9/18 Thu	9/9 Tue	9/13 Sat	9/26 Fri	9/22 Mon	9/21 Sun	9/16 Tue	9/7 Sun	9/22 Mon	9/26 Fri	9/28 Sun	9/30 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
STADT HAMBURG	021E	8/30 Sat	8/31 Sun	8/31 Sun	9/2 Tue	9/3 Wed	9/5 Fri	9/6 Sat	9/9 Tue	9/12 Fri	9/13 Sat	9/18 Thu	9/16 Tue	9/14 Sun	9/17 Wed
MELL SENOKO	009E	9/6 Sat	9/7 Sun	9/7 Sun	SKIP	9/10 Wed	9/12 Fri	9/13 Sat	9/16 Tue	9/19 Fri	9/20 Sat	9/25 Thu	9/23 Tue	9/21 Sun	9/24 Wed
MELL SINGAPORE	014E	9/13 Sat	9/14 Sun	9/14 Sun	9/16 Tue	9/17 Wed	9/19 Fri	9/20 Sat	9/23 Tue	9/26 Fri	9/27 Sat	10/2 Thu	9/30 Tue	9/28 Sun	10/1 Wed
STADT HAMBURG	022E	9/20 Sat	9/21 Sun	9/21 Sun	SKIP	9/24 Wed	9/26 Fri	9/27 Sat	9/30 Tue	10/3 Fri	10/4 Sat	10/9 Thu	10/7 Tue	10/5 Sun	10/8 Wed
MELL SENOKO	010E	9/27 Sat	9/28 Sun	9/28 Sun	9/30 Tue	10/1 Wed	10/3 Fri	10/4 Sat	10/7 Tue	10/10 Fri	10/11 Sat	10/16 Thu	10/14 Tue	10/12 Sun	10/15 Wed
MELL SINGAPORE	015E	10/4 Sat	10/5 Sun	10/5 Sun	SKIP	10/8 Wed	10/10 Fri	10/11 Sat	10/14 Tue	10/17 Fri	10/18 Sat	10/23 Thu	10/21 Tue	10/19 Sun	10/22 Wed

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Jaime P. Salazar
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Direct line (670) 236-2410

Robert Reyes
Sales and Marketing
Direct line (670) 236-2403

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Students told: Tap federal financial aid

Students who are seeking to advance their education by attending the Northern Marianas College still have up until Sept. 12, 2008 to apply for federal financial aid for the Fall 2008 semester.

Qualified students who enroll full time (12 or more credits) can qualify for up to $4,731 per year or two semesters. Even those individuals who are working full time can obtain federal financial aid by enrolling as a part time student. Part time students can be awarded up to $3,548 per year.

To be eligible for federal financial aid, a student must be either a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen (including permanent residents/green card holders). They also must have graduated from high school or completed the GED program. Pell grants, a type of federal aid, are based on household income and size (need-based grant).

To apply for federal financial aid, students need the following:

- 2007 1040 tax return if filed already (both student and parents)
- W-2 forms if not filing for the year (both student and parents)
- A copy of high school diploma or transcript
- A copy of birth certificate, passport, and/or green card
- Worksheet verification form (Obtained at the NMC Financial Aid Office)
- Other documents requested by NMC Financial Aid Office.

Financial aid staff members at the college can provide assistance in explaining financial aid options and filling out financial aid forms. For additional information about financial aid options, contact Daisy Manglona-Propst at 234-5498 Ext. 1527 or email daisym@nmcnet.edu.

Applications for NMC admission are also still being accepted until Friday, Aug. 25, 2008. Application forms can be downloaded from the NMC website at www.nmcnet.edu. The updated class schedule for the Fall 2008 semester can also be found on the NMC website. For more information about admission, please call the Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498 extension 1523/28/39/40, e-mail oar@nmcnet.edu, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

Guam prepares for biggest cultural event this October

The island of Guam is preparing for the biggest cultural event to hits its shores this year—the 21st Guam Micronesia Island Fair—to be held Oct. 17-19 at Guam's Ypao Beach Park.

The fair, hosted by the Guam Visitors Bureau, will focus on seafaring traditions with the master canoe builders of Micronesia gathering to showcase their art in tribute to 2008 being the year of the Proa, the local word for the handcrafted seagoing canoes of Guam and Micronesia.

In keeping with the history of past fairs, the 21st Guam Micronesia Festival will welcome representatives from all parts of Micronesia.

Currently, the islands of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas (Saipan, Rota, and Tinian) will participate along with the Federated States of Micronesia (Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae), the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Guam.

The fair will feature cultural performances, exhibits of traditional and contemporary arts and crafts, many products from Guam and Micronesia that will be available for purchase, a traditional Chamorro hut display, and a botanical garden.

A display of traditional outrigger canoes will be displayed, courtesy of Project Proa and TASI—Traditions About Seafaring Islands. TASI will also be giving rides on a real proa. Local produce and livestock will be exhibited and there will be plenty of activities to keep children entertained. Food and drink booths, many featuring authentic Micronesian cuisine, will insure tummies stay happy and full during the Guam Micronesia Island Fair.

Two other signature events will occur during the weekend of the 21st Guam Micronesia Island Fair. The 10th Annual Micronesia Cup (Outrigger Canoe Races) will take place over the weekend and on Sunday, runners from around the world will participate in the 3rd Guam Ko'ko' Road Race, also sponsored by GVB. An exciting feature of the Guam Ko'ko' Road Race is the live cultural entertainment that takes place along the streets of the race course and the many local spectators that come out to cheer the runners on. ***(GVB)***

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

The Marianas Visitors Authority is seeking for qualified individuals for the following positions:

	POSITION:	CLOSING DATE:
JVA#08-001	Chief Accountant	Until Filled
JVA#08-003	Marketing Specialist (Saipan)	August 29, 2008
JVA#08-004	Marketing Specialist (Tinian)	August 29, 2008
JVA#08-005	Marketing Manager	August 29, 2008

HOW TO APPLY

Interested persons may contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Office at (670) 664-3200/01 or by emailing personnel@mymarianas.com for employment application forms. All applicants must submit an MVA employment application plus other required documents in order to be considered for any of the positions listed above. All applications should be submitted to the MVA office no later than the closing date of the announcement.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR NOTICE

SEPTEMBER 2008 OFFICE HOURS FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING OFFICE

During September 2008, the Administrative Hearing Office will be open from 8:30 am to 11 am and from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm. The shortened hours during September are to allow staff time to update databases, prepare notices, prepare files, and attend to other administrative tasks for the coming calendar quarter.

POSTING OF NOTICES OF DEFICIENCY AND DENIAL

For actions by the Director of Labor after August 15, 2008 to declare a deficiency or denial with respect to an application, the posting of the notice of the Director's action will be on the Department's website, www.marianaslabor.net, and by physical posting in the public area of the Department of Labor offices, Afetna Square Building, second floor, San Antonio. The purpose of posting notices on the website is so that all concerned, employers and employees, have equal access to the necessary information. In the past, mail service sometimes did not reach all parties in a timely way.

Notice of Zoning Board Special Meeting

The Zoning Board will hold a special meeting on August 28, 2008 at 6:15 pm, at the Multipurpose Center, Susupe. The agenda will include:

A. **Preliminary Matters: Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda**

B. **Reports: None**

C. **Public Hearings. None**

D. **Contested Cases. None**

E. **Permits and Related Actions - Review and Decide**
1. 2008-1360 Aggreko Auxiliary CUC Power Station

F. **Old Business. None**

G. **New Business. None**

H. **Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting. Adjourn**

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the special Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.). /s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 27, 1999

Senate tightens rules for entry of workers

Senators yesterday put into motion a measure that will tighten requirements for submission of health certificates and police clearance by alien workers seeking entry into the CNMI. Under a proposed bill they approved ahead of a congressional oversight hearing scheduled for next month, nonresidents who wish to seek employment in the Northern Marianas must secure these requirements from a list of US-approved hospitals, clinics and agencies from their country of origin.

Tiff over CUC's drug test policy heightens

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Executive Director Timothy P. Villagomez has lashed back at Thomas J. Camacho, chief of the Governor's Developmental Disabilities Council, for alleged "inaccuracies and apparent grandstanding" stemming from a recent memorandum. He criticized the memo issued by Camacho which had questioned the drug and alcohol policies of the government-owned utility firm in line with the provisions of the American with Disabilities Act or ADA.

DPS mulls off-island detention for inmates

The Department of Public Safety is looking into the possibility of sending some inmates to the U.S. mainland in order to ease overcrowding at the corrections and pare down expenditures of the agency. Public Safety Commissioner Charles Ingram said the proposal will cut down the department's daily expenses in feeding and providing security to inmates by as much as $70. Currently, DPS spends some $130 per day for each prisoner.

August 27, 2001

Government expenditures fall 10%

Strict compliance with its self-imposed austerity measures allowed the administration of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to cut its spending by more than ten percent in the first three months of the current financial year, representing $6 million total savings. Records from the Department of Finance, contained in a Department of Commerce report prepared by the Central Statistics Division, disclosed the Tenorio Administration spent only about $50.5 million in the October to December 2000 period.

US Postal Service urged to catalog territories in stamps

A concurrent resolution is now pending before the US House of Representatives that would require the US Postal Service to come up with postage stamps that would commemorate the states and territories that make up the United States, including the CNMI. House Concurrent Resolution 215, which was authored by Guam Rep. Robert A. Underwood, urges Congress to direct the US Postal Service to come up with a series of postage stamps to commemorate each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the territories of Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the CNMI and Puerto Rico.

Matching fund waiver proposed

Guam delegate Rep. Robert A. Underwood has filed a new bill at the US House of Representatives which, if passed, would no longer require American territories such as the CNMI to match federal grants that amount to less than $500,000. House Resolution 2826, which was also co-sponsored by Reps. Donna M. Christian-Christensen (US Virgin Islands) and Eni F. Faleomavaega (American Samoa), has been referred to the House Committee on Resources.

August 27, 2002

Elected AG for NMI proposed

In the wake of the abrupt resignation of Attorney General Robert T. Torres, House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider said this could be the perfect time to revisit the issue of having an elected Attorney General. "We've raised that in the past and I think it's time to revisit that idea again. There are jurisdictions in place that we can look at so we could weigh the pros and cons and make a determination appropriately," said Hofschneider.

Public schools to undergo repairs

Majority of old public schools in the Commonwealth will undergo renovation and repair following the discovery of worn-out materials and termite-infested facilities. Following the completion of three schools on Saipan, the Public School System now embarks on a major renovation of dilapidated public schools on Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

NMPASI appeals for local funding support

With the end of Fiscal Year 2008 fast approaching, members of the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc. say they need more local funding to supplement the federal grants they get.

NMPASI is a local non-profit organization designated to safeguard the rights of individuals with disabilities through a series of federal "protection and advocacy" grant programs.

Citing federal grant terms and conditions which restrict supplanting of local funds, acting executive director Jim Rayphand said, "NMPASI is not immune to the ill effects of a struggling economy and the downward spiral of locally generated funds."

The organization, he says, relies in part on local government funding and community donations to supplement the costs of administering its federal grants, but that over the years its locally generated funds have been drastically cut from approximately $50,000 per year in the mid-'90s to a mere $12,000 per year in fiscal years 2007 and 2008.

Rayphand said he would be asking the Legislature to consider restoring NMPASI's local government appropriations to at least $30,000 annually which, he said, given their current operational needs, would be sufficient. "Short of that," he said, "we face the daunting challenge of having to fundraise in our already battered community of people and businesses struggling to make ends meet."

Founded in 1993, NMPASI was established to protect the civil, legal and human interests of individuals with disabilities through legally based advocacy to secure, among other things, the right to a free, appropriate, public education, the right to reasonable accommodations in the work place and, generally, the right to be free from discrimination. B

NMPASI also provides disability-related trainings that can range in topics from specific disability laws to basic etiquette in working with individuals with disabilities. Over the past two fiscal years alone, NMPASI reports that it has provided disability-related trainings to over 2,500 people and has assisted in direct representation for approximately 250 eligible clients with disabilities.

"For 15 years, NMPASI has been a constant and persistent advocate on behalf of people with disabilities," Rayphand said. "Additionally, it has managed to funnel a significant amount of federal dollars directly into our local economy due in part to the supplemental support from our Legislature and generous contributions from the community. It's important that we get continued and increased monetary supplements if we want to maintain the influx of federal grant funds."

He was quick to add, though, that donations are always welcome "and no amount is too small."

NMPASI has 501(c)(3) status under the Internal Revenue Code and is governed by a 10-member, volunteer board of directors comprising of community professionals who in most cases have some personal stake in the need to protect the rights of individuals with disabilities. Each member of the current board are sworn to uphold the purposes and requirements of the federal grant programs.

For more information, call the office at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] / 235-7278 [tty] / 235-7275 [fax] or log on to www.nmpasi.com. ***(PR)***

Pepsi's Twist and Win promo extended

The Pepsi Twist and Win promotion has been extended for redemption until the week of Sept. 1 to 5, 2008, with lots of great prizes such as a laptop and numerous cash prizes.

Consumers who collect letters under the Twist and Win caps can save these letters to spell PEPSI. Once they've gotten all the letters to spell PEPSI, customers can redeem prizes at Pacific Trading Co. on Middle Road, Puerto Rico, or at a designated location to be announced later. In order to determine the prizes such as beach towels, umbrellas, mugs, handy case and Pepsi Max 20oz, consumers must spin the Pepsi Twist and Win wheel and they will receive the prize where the arrow is pointed.

Winning caps are placed in Diet Pepsi, Mountain Dew, Mirinda Orange and Mirinda Strawberry in both the 20-oz and 2-liter sizes. Instant win caps are spread out throughout the different Pepsi brands and sizes and have been placed in stores around the island. Instant win caps can be found at participating locations such as all Joeten locations, Price Costco, Payless, San Jose Mart, 99 cents, H-mart, XO Market, I-Mart, Twins Supermarket, KL store, Ming Ming Store and others.

Pacific Trading Co. also has a Miller Lite summer promotion, "Bigger, Better, Summer … Bigger Better Bike," where it will give away a Harley Davidson Sportster 1200 this Saturday at Hard Rock café. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
PROMOTIONAL & OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that the Public School Personnel System shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Public Law 6 - 10, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin. Applicants for this position must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Announcement No: **PSS-072-2006 (Amendment/Re-Announcement IV)**
Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**
Position Title: **DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**
Pay Level/Step: **UNGRADED** Per Annum Salary: **$50,000.00 - $ 65,000.00**
Opening Date: **August 20, 2008, 2008** Closing Date: **September 11, 2008**
Location: **PSS, OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION**
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays

Minimum Requirements:
Graduation from a US accredited college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Public Administration, Finance, Accounting or related field of study plus five (5) years work experience and must hold a valid licensure as a Certified Public Accountant; **OR** Master's Degree in Business Administration, Public Administration, Finance, Accounting or related field of study plus five (5) years related work experience.

***Detailed job description with qualification requirements can be obtained at PSS Human Resources Office at the 3rd Retirement Building, Capitol Hill, or download it online www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources**

Announcement No: **PSS-073-2006 (Amendment/Re-Announcement II)**
Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**
Position Title: **ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**
Pay Level/Step: **UNGRADED** Per Annum Salary: **$50,00.00-$65,000.00**
Opening Date: **August 20, 2008** Closing Date: **September 11, 2008**
Location: **PSS – OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION**
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays

Minimum Requirements:
Graduation from a US accredited college or university with a Master's degree in Education Administration or related areas, plus at least five (5) years of progressively responsible teaching or education administration experience.

***Detailed job description with qualification requirements can be obtained at PSS Human Resources Office at the 3rd Retirement Building, Capitol Hill, or download it online www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources**

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE 3rd RETIREMENT BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE, (2) TRANSCRIPTS, (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX MONTHS), (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER, (5) RESUME, AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE).COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, RETIREMENT BUILDING; THIRD FLOOR, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #. (670) 237-3051, FAX # (670) 664-3707. ALSO VISIT http://www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
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Announcement No: **PSS-2008-054**
Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**
Position Title: **SCHOOL PRINCIPAL I-III**
Pay Level/Step: **UNGRADED**
Per Annum Salary: **$50,000.00-$60,000.00**
Opening Date: **August 7, 2008**
Closing Date: **August 27, 2008**
Location: PSS – **SAIPAN / TINIAN / ROTA**
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays
Minimum Requirements:
Master's Degree with a Major in Educational Administration or related field.
Minimum of 6 years experience; 3 years teaching experience and 3 years of successful experience as a school administrator or related leadership management field. Possess a valid CNMI Administrators Certificate. Pass PRAXIS I (PPST) & PRAXIS II Content Knowledge Test.

***Detailed job description with qualification requirements can be obtained at PSS Human Resources Office at the 3rd Retirement Building, Capitol Hill, or download it online www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources**

Announcement No: **PSS-2008-055**
Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**
Position Title: **SCHOOL VICE-PRINCIPAL I-II**
Pay Level/Step: **UNGRADED**
Per Annum Salary: **$40,00.00-$50,000.00**
Opening Date: **August 7, 2008**
Closing Date: **August 27, 2008**
Location: **PSS - SAIPAN / TINIAN / ROTA**
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays
Minimum Requirements:
School Vice Principal I - Graduation from a U.S. accredited college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in Education or related area plus three (3) years experience in teaching or education administration. Pass PRAXIS I (PPST) & PRAXIS II Content Knowledge Test.

School Vice Principal II - Graduation from a U.S. accredited college or university with a Master's Degree in Education or related area plus three (3) years experience in teaching or education administration and must hold a valid administrator certification. Pass PRAXIS I (PPST) & PRAXIS II Content Knowledge Test.

***Detailed job description with qualification requirements can be obtained at PSS Human Resources Office at the 3rd Retirement Building, Capitol Hill, or download it online www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources**

Announcement No: **PSS-072-2007**
(Amendment/Re-Announcement II)
Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**
Position Title: **Procurement & Supply Officer**
Pay Level/Step: **35 / 01-12**
Per Annum Salary: **$28,807.51 - $49,266.21**
Opening Date: **August 11, 2008**
Closing Date: **August 27, 2008**
Location: **PSS – Procurement & Supply Office, Administrative Services Division**
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays
Minimum Requirements: **Graduation from a U.S. accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree and at least six (6) years of procurement and supply work experience or related work experience, or Master's degree and (4) years work experience.**

***Detailed job description with qualification requirements can be obtained at PSS Human Resources Office at the 3rd Retirement Building, Capitol Hill, or download it online www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources**

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The right age for drinking

College officials who have signed on to the provocative proposition that the legal drinking age of 21 isn't working say that they just want to start a debate. Perhaps when they get done with that, they can move on to whether Earth really orbits the sun. Any suggestion that the current drinking age hasn't saved lives runs counter to the facts.

More than 100 presidents and chancellors from such top universities as Duke and Johns Hopkins say it's time to rethink the drinking age, contending it has caused "a culture of dangerous, clandestine `binge-drinking.' " The statement does not specifically advocate reducing the drinking age, but many who signed it say they thought legal drinking should begin at 18.

Health and safety experts have reacted with dismay, because raising the drinking age has saved many lives. In 2001, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reviewed 49 studies published in scientific journals and concluded that alcohol-related traffic crashes involving young people increased 10 percent when the drinking age was lowered in the 1970s and decreased 16 percent when the drinking age was raised. The retreat from a lower drinking age translates into some 900 lives saved each year among 16 to 20 year olds. Those who would argue that other factors, such as safer cars, are responsible should take a good look at numbers posted by Mothers Against Drunk Driving showing alcohol-related traffic fatalities among 16 to 20 year olds decreasing 60 percent between 1982 and 2006 while non-alcohol-related fatalities increased 34 percent.

The college presidents are right about binge drinking. Each year, some 1,700 college students die from causes related to alcohol use; there is also the toll of injuries and sexual assaults fueled by alcohol. But where is the logic of solving the underage drinking problem by lowering the age even more? Henry Wechsler, the Harvard expert whose studies of binge drinking popularized the phrase, put it best, comparing lowering the drinking age to "pouring gasoline to put the fire out."

Work by experts such as Mr. Wechsler, as well as the experience of college officials committed to solutions, shows that strong steps to enforce the law and change the culture can produce results. Instead of talking about lowering the drinking age (and thereby shifting the problem to high schools), colleges should be working to develop better enforcement methods, expand education and counseling, and end pricing practices that make alcohol more accessible and attractive. Then, too, college officials can stop winking at fraternity bashes that, whether they are willing to admit it or not, add to the allure of going off to college.

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I KNOW THE WHOLE IDEA OF PLACING YOUR NAME IN NOMINATION IS TO BUILD PARTY UNITY...
STILL, YOU DON'T THINK THERE'S THE SLIGHTEST CHANCE THAT—
NO, BILL... GIVE IT A REST.
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD
KOTERBA

Fixing birds

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

"Want to know how to REALLY help others? Help yourself first! Once you help yourself you become such a beacon of light that shines so brightly, that others will automatically be helped without you doing one blessed thing!"--Gladys Edmunds

The clueless solve the mysteries
while the sightless guide the blind
And those without direction
lead the lost to peace of mind

The utmost height of folly:
ego's fed but you're defeated
You strive to cure the world its woes
while your ills go untreated

So climb the ladder first
and show you practice what you preached
Then throw a life line back
to help the world to where you've reached

Don't give away your map
before your own gold has been found
For you can't coach wounded birds to fly
while stranded on the ground!

Last night, I had an insightful, inspiring three-hour interview/talk with Gladys Edmunds. Gladys, a dynamic entrepreneur, author and *USA Today* columnist with a long list of stellar achievements, was known at one time by the media as that "16 year old who took 9 dollars and built a 9 million dollar business!"

During our talk, Gladys reminded me of some simple traveler's wisdom that she included in her *There's No Business Like Your Own Business* audio series.

Anyone who's traveled by plane has no doubt heard "in the event of a loss of cabin pressure, place your mask on first before helping those around you." This simple wisdom works well on the ground too, and in many areas of life. What good can you be to others if your own life is in chaos? Can you really raise passion-centered children if you yourself live a passionless life? Can you really speak from a place of certainty, truth and conviction about anything which you yourself have not experienced? Well, many try. Many of these people are seeking the ego gratification of being the "give 'til hit hurts" sacrificing Samaritan who helps others while neglecting his or her own needs.

Noble, yes. Effective? Maybe not. Gladys suggests that for the next seven days you do things a little differently. For the next week, resolve to do the things that benefit you. Each day, ask, "What can I do for me today? What will I do to help myself up the ladder that is just about me?"

Now, I know what you're thinking. So, no, it's not about being selfish. It's not about doing for yourself to the exclusion of others. It's not about winning so others lose. It's simply about making the time to do things that benefit you first and foremost. Again, this is not an exercise in how to be selfish. In fact, you want to know what's really selfish? Helping others simply to feed your ego-driven image of yourself without really having the means to truly help them—that's selfish!

So instead of finding and fixing all the wounded birds strewn across your path this week, focus on you. Fix you, and you might be surprised who seeks you out to be the light in their own journey! You'll find that the best way to help others is to help yourself!

Note: *For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!*

Note: *There's a new blog in town! Check out www.blacksonsaipan.com*

■ ■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

The Saipanpreneur Project

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit*. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com*

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Grounded but not dead as a lame duck

By DAVID GREENBERG
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

It's a regular occurrence in American politics. Sometime toward the end of a president's run, the most powerful political leader on Earth suddenly seems to slip from view. His term of office isn't over yet, but this figure who normally invades our thoughts every day turns into a ghost of his former omnipresent self.

Why do we call outgoing presidents "lame ducks"? The term is London stock-market slang, circa 18th century, for a broker who weaseled on his debts—someone who was powerless to pay up.

Applied soon thereafter to American politics, it now refers to a president who limps but cannot fly. He counts down his last days roaming the White House in his bathrobe, waxing stoical about his legacy and furiously issuing controversial pardons. Bill Clinton presented a hilarious video of his lame-duck period at the April 2000 White House Correspondents' Association Dinner, in which he chased after Hillary's limo to deliver her forgotten brown-bag lunch.

Traditionally, an outgoing president is a lame duck between Election Day in November and his successor's inauguration on Jan. 20 the next year. But in reality, the lame-duck phenomenon can kick in whenever it becomes clear that a president no longer truly drives the agenda.

For Lyndon Johnson, it happened in March 1968, when setbacks in the Vietnam War and an unexpectedly strong primary showing by Democratic challenger Eugene McCarthy persuaded him not to seek re-election. Harry Truman was saddled with the moniker after the Democrats lost control of Congress in the 1946 elections—critics urged him to resign—but he recovered to win the 1948 election and four more years. The passage of the 22nd Amendment in 1951, which limits presidents to two terms, has ensured that, to some extent, as soon as a president is re-elected, he will be outfitted with the lame-duck bill.

President George W. Bush, it's fair to say, started limping fairly early. Since November, when the election coverage kicked into high gear, he's been disappearing from public consciousness. His State of the Union address, which fell in the middle of two hard-fought primary campaigns, barely registered a blip. Barack Obama and John McCain are more likely to lead news broadcasts.

All in all, Bush's lame-duck status seems particularly acute. Several reasons explain why. His party lacks a congressional majority, and his popular standing, which has been dismal for almost three years, keeps him from drawing strength from public opinion—as Clinton and Ronald Reagan did—to notch notable late-term achievements.

Moreover, unlike every retiring president since Truman, Bush isn't handing the baton of party leadership to his vice president. Indeed, for the first time in more than a century, the president's party has picked a nominee whose allure lies primarily in his sharp differences with the incumbent. As a result, not only Bush but the conservative movement that he led and embodied seem to have run their course.

Probably the first president to use his waning days to significant ends was John Adams, who, after losing his bid for a second term to Thomas Jefferson in 1800, promptly created 16 federal judgeships and proceeded to fill them with what came to be called "midnight judges." Besides attempting to reshape the judiciary for political ends, his actions led to the landmark Supreme Court decision in Marbury v. Madison, which codified the exercise of judicial review. (Marbury was one of Adams' appointees.)

Closer to our day, after John Kennedy beat Richard Nixon in 1960, Dwight Eisenhower's administration finalized plans for the Bay of Pigs invasion, well out of public view; it was JFK, though, who, four months into his presidency, carried out the fiasco.

Lame ducks don't always operate in the shadows of a fading spotlight. In December 1980, Jimmy Carter—having lost his bid for a second term and taken the Democratic Senate down with him—knew that the incoming Reagan Republicans would have little regard for new environmental regulations. Carter and congressional Democrats quickly passed the "Superfund" environmental law, which allowed for the cleanup of toxic waste, and the Alaska Lands Act, which safeguarded millions of acres of terrain. (Clinton also got the conservation bug toward his presidency's end, signing executive orders that protected federal lands.)

Bush, too, is less passive than he seems. His political staff is quietly advancing a conservative agenda. The White House recently proposed a radical change to the Endangered Species Act that would allow government agencies to bypass a heretofore mandatory scientific review process that evaluates the impact of their actions. The Department of Health and Human Services drafted a rule that could redefine abortion to include some forms of contraception and allow doctors and pharmacists to deny them to women as they see fit. And the Education Department has been plunging ahead with a plan to force colleges and universities to submit to standardized assessments that could do for higher education what the No Child Left Behind Act has done for secondary schooling.

On foreign policy, another realm where even a weak president wields significant power, Bush also has made important, if underreported, moves—less to promote an ideological worldview, in this case, than to try to salvage his foreign-policy legacy. He has retooled his stands on North Korea, Iran and even Iraq. The administration endorsed "time horizons" for withdrawal from Iraq, had a high-level aide sit down in nuclear talks with Iran and agreed to have Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice join six-way talks on North Korea.

To some extent, these steps are a function of Bush's clipped wings. The turn toward workaday diplomacy in foreign affairs results from the failure of his grandiose ambitions; the resort to sly changes in federal regulations comes after the demise of big-ticket legislation. But the 24/7 media focus on the campaign, Bush's shambling style and the feeling of a page turning on the conservative movement shouldn't deceive us into thinking that this administration's work is done. Bush may well be a lame duck, but he isn't a dead one.

Greenberg is a professor of history and media studies at Rutgers University, a columnist for Slate and the author of Nixon's Shadow: The History of an Image.

McCain's photo ops are photo flops

By JIM SHEA
(C) 2008, THE HARTFORD COURANT

If a picture is worth a thousand votes, then John McCain is in trouble.

While Presidential Obama was traveling overseas last month, having his photo taken in all the right places with all the right people, the McCain campaign machine was back home appearing determined to retain its amateur status.

Apart from McCain's verbal gaffes, his geography boo-boos (Iraq doesn't border Pakistan) and his whining about Obama's extensive media coverage (McCain was the one who goaded him into going), there was the golf cart photo op.

McCain allowed himself to be photographed riding around in a golf cart being driven by former President George H.W. Bush.

Although some might question the political wisdom of McCain going out of his way to tie himself to one of the most unpopular presidents in history by way of his father, the real gaffe here was the golf cart.

When you're working on 72 years young, and age is a major issue in voters' minds, you really don't want to be seen tooling around in a golf cart unless you are chasing a little white ball.

Golf carts suggest limited mobility.

Golf carts imply health concerns.

Golf carts evoke images of retirement communities—a.k.a., "God's waiting rooms."

But then, McCain has always had a tin eye for photo ops.

Remember his shopping excursion in Baghdad where he was pictured walking around a market in a helmet and body armor while proclaiming the city was becoming safer? Did he not think anyone would notice he was being protected by helicopter gunships and half the Army?

Granted, McCain will still have to go some to top the undisputed king of photo ops gone wrong, Michael Dukakis.

Running for president in 1988, the former Massachusetts governor was posed riding atop a tank wearing a weird-looking helmet. The ad was supposed to say something about being strong on defense, but what it ended up saying was "dork."

Sen. John Kerry tried to top Dukakis four years ago when he was filmed windsurfing in his wetsuit. Aside from playing into the senator's elitist image, the windsurfing video also provided the Bush campaign with footage for an attack ad focusing on his alleged flip-flopping: "Whichever way the wind blows."

To his credit, Kerry almost outdid himself later in the presidential campaign when he was photographed wearing a crisp new camouflage hunting outfit and carrying a dead bird he had just shot in the name of gun lovin'.

So far, the Obama campaign has been very good, and very careful, about how and where the candidate is seen. What they need to be mindful of, however, is that even the perfectly staged photo op can turn on you.

Remember the "Mission Accomplished" landing on the aircraft carrier by you know who? Tell me that didn't come back to bite him in the flight suit.

Letters to the Editor

Tinian revelations

Thank you so very much for the series of articles about Tinian written by Stefan Sebastian. They include so many revelations for the people of Tinian that it may take some days to digest each of them.

One of the biggest is the announcement that last month the mayor's staff met with Marianas Public Land Trust officials in a bid to gain a $1.3-million loan to construct a new market complex.

The last thing Tinian needs is another Farmers Market. Tinian has had one for ever and a $50,000 manger who is supposed to be marketing local produce. We don't need another.

I say revelation because the people of Tinian never have any idea what the mayor and his rubber stamp legislative delegation and municipal council are up to until after we read it in the paper.

Last year we were surprised to learn that the mayor and the delegation had obligated our annual federal Community Development Block Grant to build a new pavilion at Natibu Park, when we already have an excellent pavilion at Kammer Beach. No one in the "community" was ever asked. The "community" within the mayor's office just made up their own minds and did it without a public hearing. Perhaps our DOI representative can find out if the Community Development Block Grant system allows elected officials to take unilateral action without public input.

On the issue of an additional Farmers Market for Tinian, perhaps Stefan can call Mayor San Nicolas personally, if he is on island, and ask for a copy of his new marketing plan in support of his loan request.

No doubt there is none, just as there was none for the mayor's late great Noni project. During his campaign for mayor, San Nicolas promised to make Tinian rich from Noni. As soon as he was elected, he proceeded to plant 25,000 Noni plants on Tinian public land, including the elementary school campus and along the Broadway Boulevard. The problem was he had no marketing plan. Today, the Noni plants are mature and producing. Still, there is still no marketing plan and no money being created to repay the Tinian Municipal Fund.

The idea of building a new Farmers Market is nothing more than another empty promise to the people of Tinian and another opportunity for the mayor to hand out a construction contract in return for personal benefits within the mayor's office.

What Tinian needs is for the mayor's office, the Tinian delegation and the municipal council to focus on getting the airport operational and moving the dump. These are required for the development of the casino industry. The hotel, casino, golf course developers are ready to move, if only Tinian's elected officials will focus on the real needs of Tinian.

Don A. Farrell
Marpo Heights, Tinian

An achievement in conservation

Bush's marine monument in the CNMI will be a fantastic conservation achievement. It will preserve the waters for future generations, such that fish, corals, and other marine life will always have a place of refuge from the rapidly growing human populations around the world and the billions upon billions of mouths needing nourishment. Commercial fisherman will undoubtedly set up a permanent presence on the outskirts of the marine monument, where they will find the only profitable fishing. All other oceanic waters are predicted to be overfished by the year 2050, according to numerous scientific reports.

Ken Kramer
Fina Sisu, Saipan

Proud of the CNMI

I was excited to see our islands talked about on CNN yesterday. I may not be Chamorro, but I was born here, I am an American citizen, and these islands are my home. It made me so proud to see them talking about our islands, my home, on TV.

As a student my number one reason to support the monument should be all the education benefits, but I am actually more concerned with improving our economy. The many letters in the paper say that many jobs will be created. So many people are leaving here because there are no jobs.

I hope that our leaders change their minds and choose to support the monument.

Mylene Balisalisa
Dandan, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

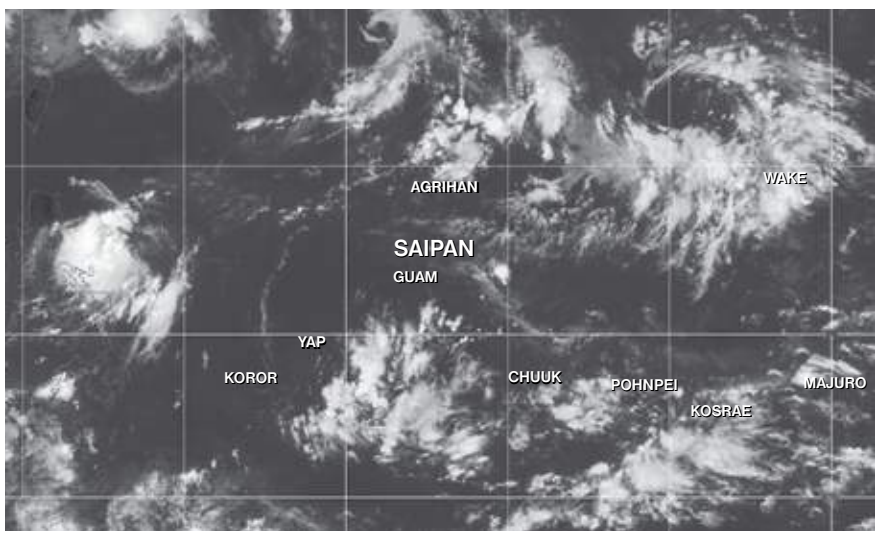
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼72
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼76
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲60	▼52
Beijing	Showers	▲82	▼63
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲90	▼79
Honolulu	Showers	▲85	▼76
London	Partly Sunny	▲75	▼55
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲84	▼66
Manila	Showers	▲85	▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲57	▼47
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲90	▼79
New York	Partly Sunny	▲77	▼64
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼73
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼60
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼69
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲83	▼63
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲78	▼53
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼58
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼68
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼74
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲75	▼66

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 2:00PM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends southeastward from 25N140E to 18N146E then eastward to end at a circulation centered northwest of Wake Island at 22N162E. Winds converging into the trough are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Iwo To. The extreme northern CNMI and Minami Tori Shima or north of a line from 23N137E to 19N147E to 21N154E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the circulation northwest of Wake are located north of a line from 22N154E to 16N164E to 20N171E. Trade-wind convergence coupled with upper-level divergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of Yap and Koror between 2N and 10N from 138E to 148E. Trade-wind convergence is teaming with upper-level divergence to also generate scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae states between the equator and 8N from 152E to 163E just north of Majuro between 7N and 12N from167E to 173E and southeast of Majuro within 125 miles of a line from EQ172E to 7N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:44AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
10:45AM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
6:22PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:15PM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:04AM	6:33 PM
Thursday	6:04AM	6:32 PM
Friday	6:04AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	6:04AM	6:31 PM
Sunday	6:04AM	6:30 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:08AM	3:39PM
Thursday	3:12AM	4:32PM
Friday	4:14AM	5:20PM
Saturday	5:13AM	6:02PM
Sunday	6:08AM	6:42PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:25am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
5,066.000
Down 24.100
(-0.47%)

HONG KONG
20,872.02
Down 232.77
(-1.10%)

JAKARTA
2,103.844
Down 23.3801
(-1.10%)

TOKYO
12,775.15
Down 103.51
(-0.80%)

K. LUMPUR
1,078.73
Down 6.87
(-0.63%)

MANILA
2,637.65
Down 15.53
(-0.59%)

SINGAPORE
2,697.37
Down 36.08
(-1.32%)

SEOUL
1,493
Down 9.11
(-0.61%)

BANGKOK
666.65
Down 11.55
(-1.70%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
11,386.25
-241.81

NASDAQ
2,365.59
-49.12

S&P
1,266.84
-25.36

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.1638
British Pound	0.5419
Canadian Dollar	1.0517
Chinese Renmbi	6.8461
Euro	0.68
Hong Kong Dollar	7.8083
Indian Rupee	44.007
Indonesian Rupiah	9182.5
Japanese Yen	109.68
Malaysian Ringgit	3.3885
New Zealand Dollar	1.4362
Philippine Peso	45.983
Singapore Dollar	1.4215
South Korean Won	1088.3
Swiss Franc	1.0993
Taiwan Dollar	31.545
Thailand Baht	34.231

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Oil in Asia tops $115 on storm concern

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices in Asia rose slightly Tuesday to above $115 a barrel on concerns that Tropical Storm Gustav may strengthen and disrupt oil operations in the Gulf of Mexico.

Light, sweet crude for October delivery was up 35 cents at $115.46 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by midday in Singapore. The contract tumbled $6.59 on Friday to settle at $114.59 a barrel.

"It's too early to tell if it will intensify into a hurricane or if oil installations will be in its path," said Victor Shum, an energy analyst with Purvin & Gertz in Singapore. "But the market is reacting to it and edging up some."

By Monday, reports from a U.S. Air Force Hurricane Hunter aircraft indicated the storm's top sustained winds had already reached nearly 60 mph, the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said. Forecasters said Gustav's center could pass near or over Haiti on Tuesday.

Floods and landslides were possible across Haiti's southern peninsula, and the forecasts suggested the eye could pass very closely to the capital of Port-au-Prince, home to nearly 3 million people.

Financials drag on market; Dow falls more than 240

NEW YORK (AP)—Stocks sank in light trading Monday as worries about American International Group Inc. touched off broader concerns that the deterioration of the credit markets will bring more big losses for financial companies. The major indexes lost about 2 percent. The Dow Jones industrial average fell by nearly 250 points, erasing a gain of about 200 points seen Friday. Bond prices also jumped as investors fled to the safety of government debt.

AP

In this Wednesday Feb. 27, 2008, file photo two women pass the entrance to the American International Building in New York's Financial District.

New York-based AIG was the steepest decliner among the 30 stocks that make up the Dow industrials after a Credit Suisse analyst cut his price target on the world's largest insurer and forecast steep losses for the third quarter. Adding to investors concerns, Fitch Ratings warned late Friday that it might cut its ratings on the company, which has been buffeted by investors' distaste for some of the types of complex debt instruments on AIG's books.

Banks and other financial institutions have struggled in part because of a spike in the number of homeowners who have fallen behind on their mortgage payments. A report Monday by a trade group for real estate agents showed the number of unsold properties rose to an all-time high in July. Investors shrugged off a better-than-expected 3.1 percent increase in sales of existing homes that the National Association of Realtors' report also showed.

Automakers tweak existing models to boost mileage

DETROIT (AP)—In a normal year, the 2009 Chevrolet Cobalt wouldn't be any different than the 2008 model, save for a few minor cosmetic changes. But this is far from a normal year.

With gasoline still hovering around $4 per gallon, many manufacturers are making far more than the usual tweaks to cars and trucks between model years to squeeze out one or two more miles per gallon and catch customers who increasingly rank fuel economy as a top factor when buying a vehicle.

Automakers say you can expect more of the same as they roll out new technology without waiting for full vehicle updates.

"Fuel economy is very important," said Greg Peterson, General Motors Corp.'s vehicle performance manager for compact cars, including the Cobalt.

NEW QUARTER AP

This image provided by the U.S. Mint, depicts the Alaska quarter, which officially went into circulation on Monday, Aug. 25, 2008. Deputy Mint Director Andy Brunhart says 500 million of the quarters will be minted over 10 weeks. A congressional program started in 1999 circulates new quarters honoring a different state every ten weeks in the order the states joined the union. Alaska is the penultimate state to appear on the commemorative cash. Hawaii's coin will be issued in November. The mint also plans a quarter honoring Washington, D.C., next year, plus quarters commemorating each U.S. territory: Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, U.S. Virgin Islands and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Florida tops 1Q mortgage fraud list

NEW YORK (AP)—Reported incidents of mortgage fraud jumped 42 percent nationwide, with Florida reporting the highest number of cases, according to industry data released Monday.

Properties in the Sunshine State accounted for nearly a quarter of all mortgage fraud incidents, the Mortgage Asset Research Institute said. California ranked second, followed by a three-way tie for third among Illinois, Maryland and Michigan.

The report is based on data submitted by MARI subscribers about loans that were originated in the first quarter of this year and have since been classified as fraudulent.

Will economy's path be shaped like a U, V, W or L?

Wall Street, meet Sesame Street. Bulls, bears and Nobel laureates are talking a lot about letters as they try to predict the shape of the charts that will describe the economy's downturn and recovery.

Will this roller coaster follow the path of a "U"—a stretched-out slump with a sharp upturn? Or will it be shaped like a "V," with a vertiginous descent followed by a quick recovery? Will we wrestle with a "W"-shaped double dip, or labor through an "L" of long-term languishing?

Global Insight Inc.'s May presentation "U.S. Recession and Recovery: U-, V-, or W-shaped?" answered with a "W," saying a second dip would come as spending from stimulus checks dries up.

"There's been debate about whether it's V-shaped or U-shaped," Nobel-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz said recently on CNBC. "I think there's growing consensus it's an L-shape."

By focusing on letters, Wall Street is "trying to make a desperate situation look sort of technical—'It's not that much of a fuss, the big boys can take care of it, don't you worry,'" said Wall Street historian Charles Geisst. "Except the big boys here, their trousers are getting a little short, I'm afraid."

So far, the downward ride has included record bank writedowns and home foreclosures, the wipeout of $1.9 trillion in shareholder wealth and a spike in unemployment.

The alphabet-shaped charts represent the rise and fall of economic indicators over time—such as Gross Domestic Product, real income, employment, industrial production and wholesale sales. The National Bureau of Economic Research, the chart-watching private group that gauges economic peaks and troughs, has yet to declare the current downturn a recession.

Plenty of others have, saying the charts are proving their point to the letter. "This could extend itself well into 2009, with repercussions that could keep the country stagnant for two or three years," said Jay Brew, chief bank strategist at community bank strategy firm M. Rae Resources Inc. and an "L" proponent.

Past recessions did, in retrospect, follow certain scripts. The 1980 recession proved to be a quick "V," as measured in changes in GDP. The next recession, in 1981 and '82, looked more "W"-like. The 1990-91 recession showed "U"-like traits, while the 2001 recession was another "W."

The obsession with shapes is a departure for Wall Street, where metaphors tend to be about hunting, war or sex. Partners at Wall Street firms who bring in good deals are said to "eat what they kill" come bonus time. When one company reveals its finances to another, it "opens the kimono" so the two sides can conduct an "open kimono transaction."

Some players are sticking with macho themes, spurning the alphabet and running with sports metaphors.

"We're not expecting this to be a hockey stick in the true sense of a hockey stick of a year at all," said Dominic A. Romeo, vice president and chief financial officer at pump products maker Idex Corp., according to a transcript of the company's fourth-quarter earnings call in February.

Comparing the downturn to football, Goldman Sachs Group Inc. CEO Lloyd Blankfein said in April, "We're probably in the third or fourth quarter," adding, "We're closer to the end than we are to the beginning."

Likewise, Morgan Stanley Chief Executive John Mack said in April that Wall Street was facing the most difficult conditions in 40 years, but added the global credit crisis might be "in the final innings."

Critics say those predictions struck out.

Bearish Theodore Forstmann, co-founder of private equity firm Forstmann Little, said in early July that the credit crisis was in its second inning. John P. Hussman, president of mutual fund company Hussman Investment Trust, told shareholders in April that the economy was in the downturn's third inning, with each inning lasting three months.

M. Rae Resources had been posting a debate called "The Great Recession Game of '08. What inning are we in?" that pitted Jay Brew against the company's chief economist, Edmond Seifried.

They were at the top of the sixth when Seifried threw in the towel following grim July unemployment numbers, Brew said.

"The game will be called," he said.

Some economists shoot down all the metaphors used by others.

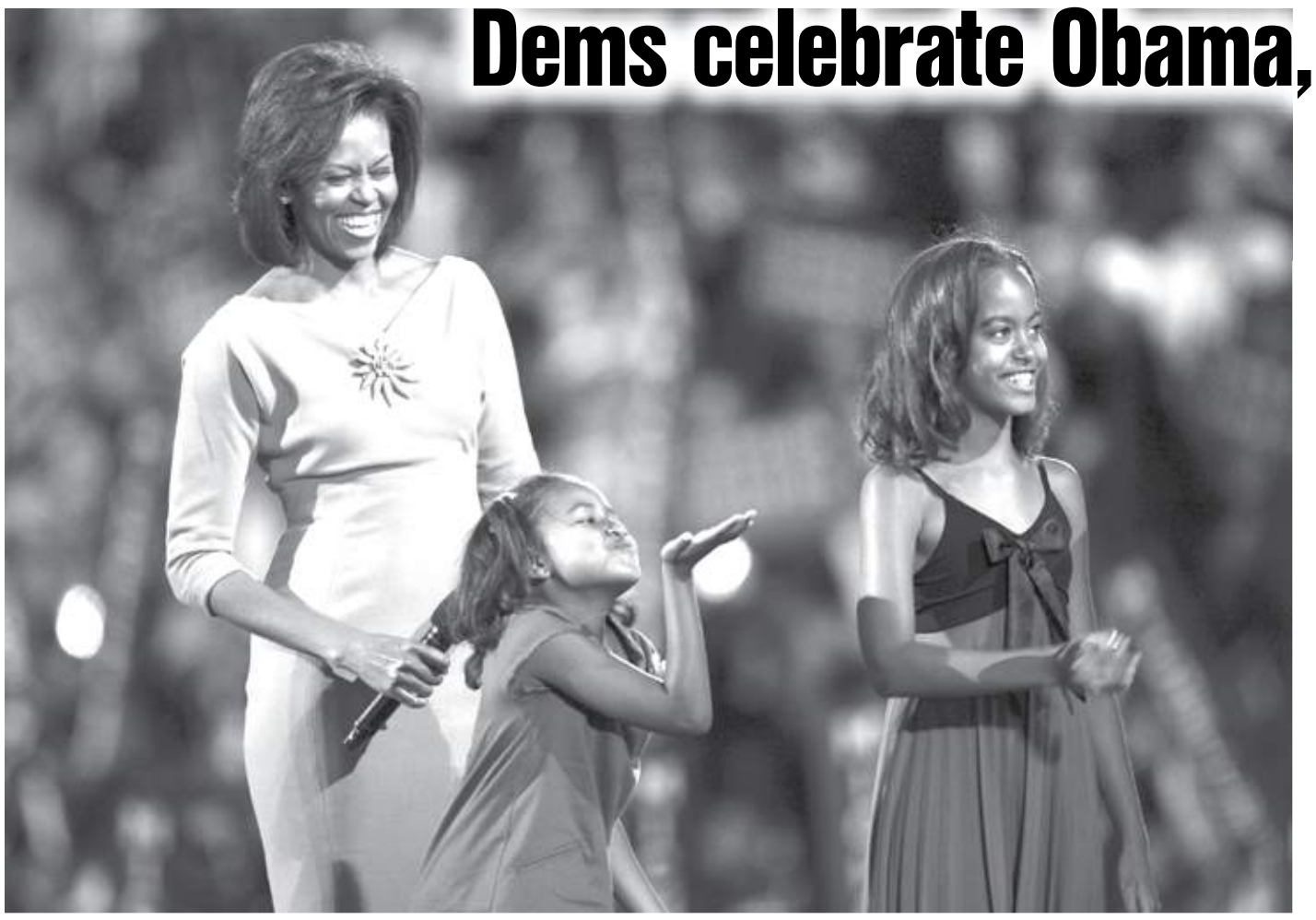
Writing in The Wall Street Journal in July, R. David Ranson, head of research at H.C. Wainwright & Co., Economics Inc., reiterated a point he made during a past downturn that the economy is not a "house of cards," but is more like a beehive.

"The future of the hive does not depend on full employment for all the worker bees," he wrote. "In fact, an accident can put many bees out of action without compromising the hive as a whole."

"Good metaphors can help maintain perspective amid chaos," he wrote.

Nation

Dems celebrate Obama, seek party peace



AP

Sasha Obama, 7, daughter of Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., blows a kiss to her dad, while he addresses the gathering via-satellite at the Democratic National Convention in Denver, Monday, Aug. 25, 2008. Looking on are Michelle Obama, left, wife of the Democratic presidential candidate and daughter Malia, 10.

DENVER (AP)—Democrats celebrated Barack Obama's pioneering quest for the White House at the opening of their national convention Monday night, casting him as a leader with classic American values while seeking party unity essential for the fall campaign.

An appearance by the ailing, aging Sen. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts and a prime-time speech by Obama's wife, Michelle, headlined the convention's first night.

In excerpts released in advance, the would-be first lady said she and her husband were raised with solid American values: "that you work hard for what you want in life, that your word is your bond and you do what you say you're going to do, that you treat people with dignity and respect, even if you don't know them, and even if you don't agree with them."

Her turn in the spotlight aside, one labor leader spoke plainly about the challenge ahead.

"There are people who are not going to vote for him because he's black," said James Hoffa, president of the Teamsters. "And we've got to hope that we can educate people to put aside their racism and to put their own interests No. 1." He spoke in an Associated Press interview.

In one of their first orders of business, delegates ratified a party platform tailored to Obama's specifications. It backs "complete redeployment within 16 months from Iraq," as well as health care for all, a new economic stimulus package and higher taxes on families earning over $250,000 a year.

"The Democratic Party strongly and unequivocally supports Roe v. Wade and a woman's right to choose a safe and legal abortion, regardless of ability to pay, and we oppose any and all efforts to weaken or undermine that right," it said. The convention's opening gavel fell with Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton still struggling to work out the choreography for the formal roll call of the states that will make him—a 47-year-old senator bidding to become the first black president—the party nominee.

"There is no doubt in anyone's mind that this is Barack Obama's convention," the former first lady told reporters. And yet, she said, some of her delegates "feel an obligation to the people who sent them here" and would vote for her.

The young Illinois senator also fought on a second front, moving to quash a television commercial linking him to a 1960s-era radical before it could damage his candidacy as the infamous Swift Boat ads sank John Kerry four years ago.

As the delegates took their seats in the Pepsi Center, Obama campaigned in Iowa, the first in a string of swing states he is visiting en route to Colorado. He arranged to watch his wife's speech on television later from Kansas City, then speak briefly to the convention via a huge TV screen.

Public opinion polls made the race with Republican John McCain a close one, unexpectedly so given a widespread desire for change in an era of economic uncertainty, continuing conflict in Iraq and poor approval ratings for GOP President Bush.

FBI *looks into Denver reports of threat on Obama*

DENVER (AP)—Federal authorities are looking into reports that a man arrested with rifles, ammunition and drugs in his truck may have made threats against Barack Obama, officials said Monday.

Two other men were arrested in the case.

"It's premature to say that it was a valid threat or that these folks have the ability to carry it out," said a U.S. government official familiar with the investigation. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing.

Tharin Cartrell, 28, was arrested during a traffic stop early Sunday by police in the eastern Denver suburb of Aurora. In his truck, officers found two rifles, including one with a scope; a bulletproof vest; boxes of ammunition; walkie-talkies; and suspected narcotics, said Aurora police Detective Marcus Dudley.

Police alerted federal authorities, who soon arrested Nathan Johnson, 32, in Aurora, Dudley said. A third man, Shawn Robert Adolf, 33, was arrested at an Aurora hotel, Dudley said. Adolf allegedly tried to escape officers by jumping from a sixth-floor window; he was hospitalized and held on $1 million bond.

Dudley didn't say what tied the three men together but that more arrests were possible.

Michelle Obama shows her husband's personal side

DENVER (AP)—Michelle Obama declared "I love this country" Monday as she sought to reassure the nation that she and her husband Barack share Americans' bedrock values and belief in a dream of a better future.

In the first major address at the Democratic National Convention, Michelle Obama described herself as a daughter, a sister, a wife and a mother, no different from many women. She told a boisterous crowd waving signs reading "Michelle" that she and her husband feel an obligation to "fight for the world as it should be" to ensure the promise of a better life for their daughters and all children.

She also used the address to dismiss questions about her patriotism. Republicans have criticized her comments earlier this year that she was "really proud" of her country for the first time. Her answer at the convention was to express her love of country.

The Obamas' two daughters joined their mother on stage after the speech as Stevie Wonder's "Isn't She Lovely" blared from in the convention hall.

Michelle Obama drew enthusiastic cheers by praising Hillary Rodham Clinton for putting "those 18 million cracks in the glass ceiling"— a reference to the failed Democratic candidate's vote total in the primaries.

8 inmates escape from NM jail, including a murderer

CLOVIS, N.M. (AP)—Eight inmates, including a convicted murderer and another man charged with murder, escaped from a county jail by cutting a hole in the roof, authorities said Monday.

One of the men was captured by Clovis police, but the other seven remained at large and were considered dangerous, the sheriff said.

The escape was discovered Sunday night when police saw two people in orange jumpsuits running near the jail, Curry County Sheriff Matt Murray said.

The inmates apparently used handmade tools to cut the hole in the roof near a skylight, he said.

"We have a feeling that they have split up and went different ways from finding some of the jumpsuits throughout the city," Murray said. He would not answer questions.

He told reporters the department was working on several leads, including searching an Albuquerque home and following up on a lead in Cactus, Texas.

State Police Lt. Eric Garcia said motorists also were being stopped and questioned at roadblocks on the outskirts of the eastern New Mexico town. Federal agencies, including the U.S. Marshals Service, joined the investigation, the sheriff's department said.

Wildfire burns homes in Boise neighborhood

BOISE, Idaho (AP)—A wildfire that started in a field of sagebrush and cheatgrass spread quickly up a ridge and burned as many as 10 homes in Boise neighborhood Monday night.

There was no immediate word on any injuries. Residents said the fire quickly engulfed and destroyed the middle-class homes on the city's southeast side.

"The wind is so strong we're literally just watching houses go up in flames," resident Susan Hallamore, 42, told The Associated Press. "Our house went up in flames."

Hallamore said she, her husband and her five children were away from the home when the fire broke out. "First you're happy you're all safe; then you realize you don't have any pictures anymore," she said. Dozens of homes and residents were evacuated. A nearby church owned by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was opened to provide shelter for evacuees.

All available Boise firefighters and equipment were called to the smoke-covered scene, fire officials said. The Bureau of Land Management has also sent four engines and about 20 firefighters.

Michael Robinson told KTVB that city firefighters came to the neighborhood last week, urging homeowners to get rid of dry grasses and other fuels and create fire breaks around the houses. Robinson said he and others complied, but it didn't make any difference.

"The fire just jumped across the fire break," he said.

AP

In this photo provided by Marina Svahn, homes burn as a wildfire sweeps through a Boise, Idaho, neighborhood Monday, Aug. 25, 2008.

Asia

RP plane disappears; debris, body parts found

By PAT ROQUE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

DAVAO, Philippines (AP)—Fishermen found body parts, debris and documents Tuesday that were believed to be from a C-130 military transport plane that disappeared after taking off in the southern Philippines with nine crew members on board.

Air force chief Lt. Gen. Pedrito Cadungog said "it is highly probable" that the remains belonged to the aircraft that lost contact within minutes of takeoff from Davao International Airport at 8:50 p.m. Monday (1250 GMT). He said the debris included a plane wheel and other parts.

The weather was reported clear at the time of the crash.

Davao police investigator Joel Parojinog said residents from a coastal village reported to police they recovered from shore two combat boots, human body parts, and some documents, including a C-130 manual.

He said they reported seeing a plane around 9 p.m. Monday "going down into the sea with flames on one of the wings," followed by an underwater explosion.

Cadungog said earlier the air force requested assistance from the U.S. military, its key ally in the anti-terrorism war in the southern Philippines, and a long-range aircraft was expected to join eight other Philippine planes and helicopters later Tuesday.

Search efforts focused on a 20-mile (30-kilometer) radius around the airport, including the nearby sea, Cadungog said.

AP
This undated photo released by the Philippine Air Force shows the missing C-130 military plane with serial number 4593 at the Villamor Airbase in suburban Manila.

1 million cut off by monsoon floods in India

PATNA, India (AP)—Authorities struggled Monday to get aid to more than 1 million people stranded by floods in a north Indian state, with one local government leader describing the situation as a catastrophe.

Air force helicopters and troops were trying to get food to people in the stricken areas of Bihar state that were inundated by flood waters last week after torrential rains caused the Kosi river in neighboring Nepal to burst its banks.

The Bihar state government issued a plea to relief agencies to step in and help get food and shelter to the residents.

"It is not a normal flood, but a catastrophe," said Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar after making an aerial survey of the ravaged districts.

Kumar said more than 1 million people were cut off from the rest of the country because the floods had washed away roads and made railway lines impassable. India's monsoon season, which lasts from June to September, brings rain vital for the country's farmers but also massive destruction. Floods, mudslides, collapsing houses and lightning strikes kill hundreds of people every year.

This year's monsoon has killed more than 330 people in India so far. In 2007, monsoon floods killed more than 2,200 people across South Asia and left 31 million others homeless, short of food or with other problems. The United Nations called last year's floods the worst in living memory.

Officials said they were struggling to cope because the Kosi river changed its course after bursting its banks, flooding areas not usually affected by the seasonal monsoon.

"We are in for a long battle as the floods have come in areas which are not prone to it," said

ASIAN BRIEFS

Quake shakes central Indonesia, buildings sway

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A strong earthquake shook central Indonesia on Tuesday, causing tall buildings in the capital to sway and briefly prompting a tsunami alert, authorities and witnesses said. The quake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.6 struck at a depth of roughly 12 miles in the Sunda Strait, around 155 miles northeast of Jakarta, said Fauzi, a government geologist who goes by one name. The Indonesian Meteorological and Geophysics Agency issued a tsunami alert, but there were no immediate signs of large waves and it was revoked within 30 minutes.

Protesters lay siege to Thai television station

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Dozens of anti-government protesters armed with knives, guns and golf clubs stormed a TV station and briefly forced it off the air Tuesday, while thousands more peacefully laid siege to government ministries, witnesses and local media said. Members of the People's Alliance for Democracy stormed the government-controlled National Broadcasting Services of Thailand studios in the Thai capital, forcing it to shut down for a few hours before police arrested the 50 to 80 protesters without incident. The protests are the latest effort by the PAD to force Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej's government from office.

Police: Gunmen fire on US vehicle, no casualties

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Gunmen opened fire on a U.S. consulate vehicle carrying an American in Pakistan's militancy-plagued northwest Tuesday morning, but there were no casualties, police said. The vehicle itself sustained minor damage, said Mohammad Nabi, an official at the police control room in Peshawar, the capital of the North West Frontier Province. He said the vehicle was carrying an American—whom he would not identify—but that driver managed to reverse it and reach safety.

China opens registrations to adopt quake orphans

BEIJING (AP)—Eighty-eight children who were orphaned after a massive earthquake struck central China earlier this year have been made eligible for adoption, state media reported. The orphans have been deemed eligible for adoption from Sichuan province, the China News Service said. Chinese authorities began processing registrations Monday. The children are among the survivors of China's worst natural disaster in a generation—the May 12 earthquake that killed 70,000 people and left 5 million homeless. There were 532 children left unaccompanied after the quake, according to an official count, the report said.

Pakistan's post-Musharraf ruling coalition splits

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—The ruling coalition that just a week ago drove U.S. ally Pervez Musharraf from the presidency broke apart Monday, throwing Pakistan into political turmoil just as it faces an increasingly difficult fight against Islamic militants. The collapse of the fragile alliance threw more power to Asif Ali Zardari, the widower of assassinated ex-leader Benazir Bhutto and a corruption-tainted former polo player who now becomes the front-runner to replace Musharraf.

USGS: 6.3-magnitude earthquake hits Tibet

BEIJING (AP)—A 6.3-magnitude earthquake shook China's western region of Tibet Monday, the U.S. Geological Survey said. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage after the temblor, which struck Zhongba county, 3,200 kilometers (2,000 miles) west of Beijing, according to the official Xinhua News Agency. The quake caused cracks in some buildings in Zhongba, Xinhua said. Xinhua said the quake had a magnitude or 6.8. There was no immediate explanation for the discrepancy in magnitude.

Suspected Hindu hard-liners set fire to orphanage

BHUBANESHWAR, India (AP)—Suspected Hindu hard-liners set fire Monday to an orphanage run by Christian missionaries in eastern India, killing one woman and seriously injuring a priest, police said Ashok Biswal, superintendent of police, said the woman was a 21-year-old teacher giving computer training to children at the orphanage. The attack occurred in Khuntapali, a village in Orissa state, during a strike called by the World Hindu Council to protest the killing Saturday of a Hindu religious leader and four others by suspected communist rebels in another district of the state.

Indian security forces kill five in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Soldiers and police fired at Muslim protesters demanding an end to Indian rule in Kashmir as authorities arrested top separatist leaders Monday in a bid to quash unrest that has left at least 39 people dead since June.

AP
Hindu protesters shout slogans in Jammu, India, Monday, Aug. 25, 2008. Hindus have been protesting against a decision by the state government to scrap plans of transferring land to a Hindu shrine.

The five latest deaths came late Sunday in Srinagar, Kashmir's main city, and Monday in two towns and one village when security forces confronted angry protesters defying a curfew in the Kashmir Valley, the Muslim heart of India's Jammu and Kashmir state.

At least 38 people with bullet injuries were hospitalized in Srinagar during day-long street protests, doctors said.

The state government said in a statement that soldiers opened fire Monday after they were shot at by protesters, who wounded two soldiers and two police in Hajin, a village nearly 20 miles (30 kilometers) from Srinagar. At least 17 protesters were believed to have been wounded.

Malaysia's Anwar set to win a seat in Parliament

PERMATANG PAUH, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia's top opposition figure ran for a Parliamentary seat in a special election Tuesday that he was expected to win despite sodomy accusations against him, as he pressed forward with his bid to topple the government.

Ibrahim

Anwar Ibrahim was pitted against a governing coalition candidate in Permatang Pauh, an Anwar stronghold in the northern industrial state of Penang. Results were expected late Tuesday.

At stake was a single seat in Parliament that will not change the balance of power, but the widely forecast victory for Anwar would strengthen his hand as he marches ahead in his bid to become the next prime minister.

World

Iraqi leader insists on deadline for troop pullout

BAGHDAD (AP)—Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki dug in his heels Monday on the future of the U.S. military in Iraq, insisting that all foreign soldiers leave the country by a specific date in 2011 and rejecting legal immunity for American troops.

Despite the tough words, al-Maliki's aides insisted a compromise could be found on the two main stumbling blocks to an accord governing the U.S. military presence in Iraq after a United Nations mandate expires at the end of the year.

Last week, U.S. and Iraqi officials said the two sides agreed tentatively to a schedule that includes a broad pullout of combat troops by the end of 2011 with the possibility that a residual U.S. force might stay behind to continue training and advising Iraqi security services.

But al-Maliki's remarks indicated his government was not satisfied with that arrangement and wants all foreign troops gone by the end of 2011.

That cast doubt on whether an agreement is near and suggested al-Maliki is playing to a domestic audience frustrated by the war and eager for an end to the foreign military presence.

"There can be no treaty or agreement except on the basis of Iraq's full sovereignty," al-Maliki told a gathering of Shiite tribal sheiks. He said an accord must be based on the principle that "no foreign soldier remains in Iraq after a specific deadline, not an open time frame."

Al-Maliki said the U.S. and Iraq had already agreed on a full withdrawal of all foreign troops by the end of 2011—an interpretation that the White House challenged. Until then, the U.S. would not conduct military operations "without the approval" of the Iraqi government, al-Maliki said.

White House spokesman Tony Fratto said negotiations with the Iraqis were continuing and repeated the U.S. position that the withdrawal must be linked to conditions in Iraq—a clear difference with al-Maliki's interpretation of what had been agreed.

AP

In this photo released by the Iraq Prime Minister's Office, Iraq Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, center, attends a tribal conference in the heavily fortified Green Zone in Baghdad, Iraq, Monday, Aug. 25, 2008.

Iraqis show video of teen girl in suicide vest

AP

In this photo released by the Iraqi Police on Monday, Aug. 25, 2008, a girl who police suspected of being a suicide bomber is seen handcuffed to railings in a street in Baqouba, Iraq, on Sunday, Aug. 24, 2008 according to police.

BAGHDAD (AP)—In video footage released by Iraqi police, a teenage girl with an explosives vest tightly strapped to her body is seen handcuffed to a metal grid, her head repeatedly falling forward as several policemen huddle around her.

After several minutes, the officers lift her flowered robe, remove the white vest hidden underneath and then take her for questioning, videotaping her in the presence of reporters. They prod her to confess to plans to stage a suicide attack, but she denies the allegation.

The arrest of the girl, who gave her first name as Rania, heightened concern about a rise in suicide bombings by women in Iraq. The number of female bombers has more than tripled, from eight in 2007 to 29 this year, according to U.S. military officials.

That compares with a total of four in 2005 and 2006, according to the military. On Aug. 14, a woman suicide bomber struck a group of Shiite pilgrims south of Baghdad, killing at least 17 people and wounding dozens of others.

Police in Baqouba, where the girl was caught Sunday, said she told them she was fitted with the explosives by female relatives of her husband, whom she married five months ago. One police official alleged that some in the girl's family had links to the al-Qaida in Iraq terror network.

In displaying the dazed teenager—who says she was born in 1993, which would make her 14 or 15—police wanted to deal another blow to the terror network's brutal reputation, officials said

Police wanted to "show the desperate level al-Qaida has reached, with members of one family driving each other to death," said Ibrahim Bajilan, head of the provincial council in the Diyala province, of which Baqouba is the capital.

In publicizing the details of the case, police may also be trying to demonstrate they're effective in fighting the insurgents and to turn more Iraqis against the militants, said John Pike, a defense analyst and director of GlobalSecurity.org.

U.S. and Iraqi forces have struggled for years to contain Sunni insurgents in Diyala. The province has been the scene of much of the recent violence in Iraq, even as the rest of the country witnessed a significant drop in attacks.

With women bombers on the rise, the U.S. has stepped up efforts to recruit and train policewomen to search women at checkpoints and entrances to public buildings.

Many Iraqi women wear long robes, ideal for covering bulky suicide vests, and Iraqi policemen hesitate to pat them down at checkpoints because of cultural taboos.

The circumstances of the girl's arrest remained unclear. U.S. officials said she turned herself in after being hooked to the explosives against her will. Local police said she was caught by a police patrol after arousing suspicion while walking in downtown Baqouba.

The video begins with Rania standing in a street, both hands cuffed to a metal grid attached to a wall behind her. A police officer is later heard saying she apparently had been drugged.

For several minutes, officers surround her, speaking among themselves. One opens the robe in the front, and shouts out to his colleagues, apparently to confirm he spotted a vest.

One officer pulls out what appears to be a wire before removing the vest, and she is left standing in a sleeveless, ankle-long orange undergarment.

Police later said the vest was packed with 33 pounds of explosives. A police photo showed it had six compartments, including two stuffed with what looked like tubes and four holding packages covered in cling-wrap.

Russian lawmakers recognize Georgia separatists

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia's parliament voted unanimously Monday to urge the president to recognize the independence of Georgia's two breakaway regions, stoking further tensions between Moscow and the small Caucasus nation's Western allies.

The votes by both chambers of Russia's parliament, which were not legally binding, come as the White House announced Vice President Dick Cheney would travel to three former Soviet republics next week—Georgia, Ukraine and Azerbaijan.

"Russia's historic role of the guarantor of peace in the Caucasus has increased," said Boris Gryzlov, speaker of the lower chamber. "The Caucasus has always been and will remain the zone of Russia's strategic interests."

Reaction from the West was swift. The United States said Russian recognition of South Ossetia and Abkhazia "would be unacceptable."

"Russia needs to respect the territorial integrity of Georgia," said State Department spokesman Robert Wood.

The continued presence of Russian troops in Georgia after a lightning war over the separatist regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia has sunk relations between Russia and the West to a post-Cold War low. Western nations have accused Russia of reneging on its commitment to withdraw forces from U.S.-allied Georgia.

The European Union immediately declared after the Russian vote that South Ossetia and Abkhazia should remain in Georgia. German Chancellor Angela Merkel said recognizing the two separatist provinces would create a "very difficult, critical situation" in regard to Georgia's territorial integrity.

Zimbabwe opposition gets surprise win in assembly

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Zimbabwe's main opposition party won the top job in parliament Monday, scoring a surprise victory that could give President Robert Mugabe's foes leverage in power-sharing talks.

It is the first time since Zimbabwe gained independence in 1980 that the speaker's post has not been held by an ally of the autocratic Mugabe.

The election of Lovemore Moyo of the Movement for Democratic Change on a 110-98 vote brought cheers, with opposition legislators breaking into a song declaring "ZANU-PF is finished!" The result indicated some members of the ruling ZANU-PF may have voted for Moyo in the secret ballot.

Mugabe's party had held a parliamentary majority since independence, but it emerged from March elections with 99 seats in the 210-seat legislature, just behind the 100 held by the Movement for Democratic Change. A splinter opposition party has 10 seats and an independent one.

Sudanese troops in battle at Darfur refugee camp

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP)—Sudanese government forces attacked one of Darfur's largest refugee camps at dawn Monday, killing dozens of civilians, according to rebels and a witness in the camp.

Sudan's military acknowledged a firefight, but said shooting began when soldiers tried to raid the camp to search for smuggled weapons. It put the number of casualties at 12, including five soldiers.

The United Nations said it was "gravely concerned" about the situation inside the Kalma camp in southern Darfur after it received reports that Sudanese police vehicles surrounded it and subsequent shooting caused "injuries and deaths of civilians."

The U.N. did not provide a death toll. But a resident of the camp, Mandela Abdullah Mohammed, told The Associated Press by telephone that he counted 32 bodies, including several women and children.

More than 50 vehicles "packed with armed men wearing police and security forces' uniforms ... hit us with rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns," Mohammed said.

But a military spokesman said government troops were fired on first.

Campus Life

More kids walk to school as fuel costs rise

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—Faced with soaring diesel fuel costs, school districts are forcing students to use the old-fashioned way to get to class: on their own two feet.

Many schools are eliminating or reducing bus service because fuel had jumped to $4.50 per gallon, 36 percent more than a year ago, and is busting budgets In California, districts are eliminating busing for thousands of students. Districts in Washington state, Idaho and Maryland and elsewhere are consolidating bus stops, canceling field trips and forcing students to walk longer distances to school to control costs.

Worried parents in Massachusetts have called WalkBoston, a nonprofit group that promotes walking, asking for help after their communities cut back on busing. Health advocates long have encouraged students to walk, stressing the fitness benefits. But school and transportation officials say they fear that abruptly reducing bus service could lower attendance rates, increase traffic congestion or endanger students if they cannot walk on sidewalks and crosswalks.

"If you remove a school bus from the road, you're adding 40 to 50 cars in the morning and in the afternoon," said Bob Riley, spokesman for the American School Bus Council, which represents school transportation officials.

Major cuts loom in California, where schools are not required to provide transportation to campus. As a result, districts squeezed by fuel prices and fewer state dollars are trimming millions from transportation budgets.

A school bus departs a public school, Monday, Aug. 25, 2008, in Texas.
AP

The Capistrano Unified School District in Orange County, for example, has eliminated 44 of its 62 bus routes to save an estimated $3.5 million, district spokeswoman Julie Hatchel said. The cuts will affect an estimated 5,000 students from kindergarten to high school.

Leaders in three communities served by the district have threatened lawsuits, saying school officials are ignoring traffic and pollution implications. While cutting bus service is unpopular, Hatchel said it is better than firing teachers and increasing class sizes.

"Our goal was to keep those cuts as far away from the classroom as possible," she said.

Increased fuel costs are especially punishing on large, spread-out districts. The school board in Montgomery County, Md., covers the sprawling Washington beltway. It buses 96,000 children daily and burns about 3.3 million gallons of diesel annually. Each penny per gallon increase in the diesel price means an additional $33,000 in spending.

Seeking ways to contain fuel costs, the school board has authorized its superintendent to force students to walk farther to school. The current limits now stand at one mile for elementary school students and up to two miles for high schoolers. "What if fuel should go up by a quarter in a period of a month or two?" district spokeswoman Kate Harrison said. "We might have to have some emergency response to that." Small towns are feeling the pinch, too. Short on cash, school officials in Shirley, Mass., a small town about 40 miles northwest of Boston, are going from eight buses to four starting this school year. Students who live within two miles of school must walk, bike or get a ride.

Parents in Shirley are worried about safety and seeking help from WalkBoston. Mary Day said her two sons will have to cross train tracks on their routes to school. To compound the problem, the town recently got rid of its crossing guards to save money.

As a single, working mother, Day said she can drop her children off at school in the morning but cannot pick them up. Her street runs parallel to train tracks and she fears her 9-year-old and 12-year-old sons will be tempted to take shortcuts by darting across the tracks outside the official crossings.

"I remember being a kid," Day said. "Are you going to walk a half-mile down the street to cross in the appropriate way when you see a clear way right there?"

Her youngest son, Quincee, isn't thrilled with the idea of walking, especially when the weather gets cold.

"I don't really like it because it takes like 20 minutes to do it," he said.

Since 2005, the federal government has spent millions of dollars on the Safe Routes to School program. While the program is designed to improve student health, school officials sometimes sign on with the secondary goal of saving money.

WalkBoston executive director Wendy Landman said school officials need to consider the consequences before reducing bus service to save money. Communities such as Shirley may need to pay for sidewalks, crosswalks or bike racks to make walking and biking safe and practical.

"When it's a panic call, they're not thinking it through in that way," she said. When done right, schools and parents can save money.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Tinian High PTSA reminder

This is to remind all parents of Tinian High School (both junior/senior) that the last day to submit your ballot for the PTSA Election of Officers will be Friday, Aug. 29, 2008. Turn in your ballots to Nieves Reyes at the high school, or to Lynette I. Hofschneider, Augusta Famaw, Wella Mendiola, Vida Borja or Frances H. Diaz no later than 3pm.

Parent orientation at SAES

San Antonio Elementary School would like to inform the public that parent orientation for the following grade levels will be as follows:

Sept. 8 (Monday)
- 4th Graders—4pm -5pm
- 5th Graders—5pm - 6pm
- 6th Graders—6pm - 7pm

Sept. 9 (Tuesday)
- 1st Graders—4pm - 5pm
- 2nd Graders—5pm - 6pm
- 3rd Graders—6pm - 7pm

"The orientation will be in each respective classroom. We would like to ask all the parents to be present to receive important information that will be given out by each classroom teacher," school officials said in a statement. ***(PR)***

KHS calendar of activities

Kagman High School welcomes another school year of fun and learning with 10 additional HQT teachers and staff.

Aug. 28 Orientation for all freshmen and new student at 9am-12-pm in the school cafeteria. All parents are welcome to attend

Aug. 29 Orientation for all sophomores and junior at 9am-12pm in the school cafeteria. There will be a special seniors meeting at 1pm in the school cafeteria. All incoming/current seniors are asked to attend this important meeting (AmeriCorp/portfolios/ Q&A session)

Sept. 2-5 All student class schedules will be released at the school site from 8:30am to 3:30pm

Sept. 8Classes begin

NMC still accepting applications

The Northern Marianas College is still accepting admission applications up until Friday, Aug. 29, 2008.

Applications for admission can be downloaded from the NMC website at www.nmcnet.edu. The updated class schedule for the Fall 2008 semester can also be found on the NMC website. For more information about admission, call the Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498 extension 1523/28/39/40, e-mail oar@nmcnet.edu, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu.

For additional information about financial aid options, contact Daisy Manglona-Propst at 234-5498 Ext. 1527 or email daisym@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

Texas students pack bookbags; teachers pack heat

HARROLD, Texas (AP)—Along with normal first-day jitters and excitement, students in this tiny district started school Monday wondering which teachers might be toting firearms.

"It was kind of awkward knowing that some teachers were carrying guns," said Adam Lira, 17, a senior. "I don't feel like they should be, 'cause we already have locked doors and cameras. But I didn't feel threatened by it."

Several parents said they had no idea that employees of the K-12 school were allowed to carry concealed guns on campus until recent publicity about the school board's policy, approved quietly last fall. They said they were upset that the rural community near the Oklahoma border had not been able to give input.

While some parents said they felt their children were safer, others opposed the plan, which appears to be the first of its kind nationwide.

"As far as I'm concerned, teachers were trained to educate my children—not carry a gun. Even police officers need years of training in hostage situations," said Traci McKay, whose three children are among the 110 students in the red-brick Harrold school. "I don't want my child looking over her shoulder wondering who's carrying a gun."

AP
Adam Lira, a senior at Harrold school sits in his car after departing school, Monday, Aug. 25, 2008, in Harold, Texas. Lira said, it felt awkward knowing that some teachers had guns in school but he did not feel threatened by it.

But Harrold Superintendent David Thweatt said the board approved the policy in an October open meeting that had been publicized. He said the decision was made after nearly two years of researching the best school security options at the school, which is just off a busy highway and 30 minutes away from the sheriff's office.

"When you outlaw guns in a certain area, the only people who follow that are law-abiding citizens, and everybody else ignores it," Thweatt said.

The superintendent said some of the school's 50 employees are carrying weapons, but he wouldn't say how many. When pressed further, he first said that revealing that number might jeopardize school security. He then added that he considered it to be personnel information and not a matter of public record.

Each employee who wants to carry a weapon first must be approved by the board based on his or her personality and reaction to a crisis, Thweatt said. In addition to training required for a state concealed weapons license, they also must be trained to handle crisis intervention and hostage situations.

Life & Style

World's first nuclear reactor now a landmark

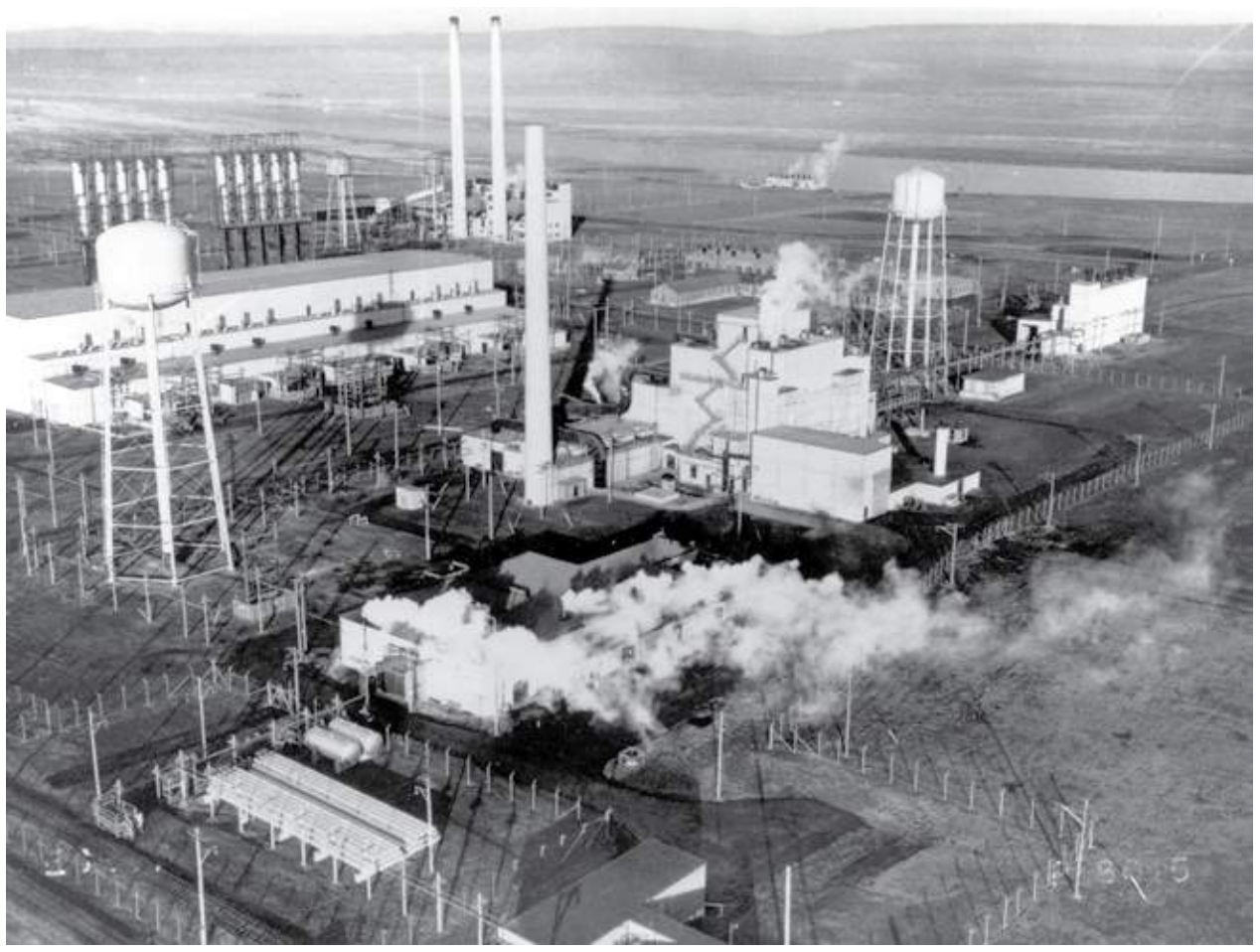
RICHLAND, Wash. (AP)—The world's first full-scale nuclear reactor, built in 13 months to produce plutonium for an atomic bomb during World War II, is now a National Historic Landmark, the federal government announced Monday.

The Hanford nuclear reservation's B Reactor produced plutonium for the first man-made atomic blast, the Trinity test in New Mexico on July 16, 1945, and for the bomb that was dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, on Aug. 9, 1945. The designation doesn't guarantee that the reactor will never be torn down but very likely opens the door for more public tours and moves it closer to becoming a museum.

"Building the B Reactor was a feat of engineering genius. So, too, was the construction a testament to the excellence of working Americans," said Lynn Scarlett, deputy secretary of the Department of Interior. "There was no wiggle room for error."

History buffs, former weapons workers and local officials have been seeking recognition for the plant for six years to help save it from being dismantled or permanently cocooned as part of the cleanup of the highly contaminated complex in south-central Washington state.

Hanford and B Reactor were the centerpiece of the Manhattan Project, a top-secret effort to build an atomic bomb in the 1940s. More than 50,000 workers moved to the banks of the Columbia River for the massive project, turning small farm communities into the Tri-Cities of Richland, Kennewick and Pasco.



AP

In this photo provided by the U.S. Department of Energy, the Hanford nuclear reservation's B Reactor is shown in this aerial file photo taken in the mid-1940s, near Richland, Wash.

Construction began on June 7, 1943, six months after physicist Enrico Fermi turned the theory of nuclear power into the reality of the Atomic Age. Eight more reactors were built at Hanford to produce plutonium for nuclear weapons, leaving a legacy of pollution that has made Hanford the nation's most contaminated nuclear site, with cleanup costs expected to top $50 billion.

Five reactors have been dismantled and cocooned, a process in which buildings around the reactors are removed, all but the shield walls surrounding the reactor cores are leveled and the cores are sealed in concrete.

The B Reactor was shut down in 1968 and decommissioned. Under a cleanup schedule managed by the Department of Energy, dismantling could have begun as early as 2009. However, the department said it would maintain the reactor while the National Park Service decides whether it should be preserved and made available for public access.

A Park Service advisory board last month recommended designating the reactor a National Historic Landmark, recognition currently granted to fewer than 2,500 sites. Four other Manhattan Project sites have been similarly recognized, including the Trinity site.

Hank Kosmata, president of the B Reactor Museum Association in Richland, noted that achieving National Historic Landmark status for B Reactor took longer than building it.

"There's an enormous amount of things that can be learned here, whether it's about Enrico Fermi, the history of nuclear energy or how a nuclear plant works," said Kosmata, 78, who went to Hanford as a reactor design engineer in 1954 and now helps lead tours there. "We want people to be able to stop in and spend some time here."

About 2,000 people have visited the complex this year. Next year, Energy Department officials plan to expand the number of tours of the building without impeding cleanup, said Jeffrey Kupfer, acting deputy secretary.

B Reactor ushered in a nuclear age that not only altered the course of World War II, but also created an important source of power and made innovations in science and medicine possible, said Michele Gerber, a Hanford historian.

"Before B Reactor, there was nothing like it," Gerber said, "and since B Reactor, nothing's been the same."

Battle over faked Holocaust book in Mass. court

BOSTON (AP)—It was a shock to Misha Defonseca's readers this year when she admitted that the best-selling story of her tortured childhood during the Holocaust was false, but her U.S. publisher saw it as an opportunity to undo a stinging, 7-year-old court judgment.

Jane Daniel says she never would have been ordered to pay Defonseca and her ghost writer $32.4 million over her handling of profits from "Misha: A Memoire of the Holocaust Years" had the jury known the book was filled with lies.

Defonseca never lived with wolves to escape the Nazis, never killed a German soldier in self-defense, never walked 3,000 miles across Europe in search of her parents. Contrary to the book's claims, Defonseca admitted in February that she isn't even Jewish.

Daniel is asking a judge to throw out the verdict; a hearing is set for Thursday in Middlesex Superior Court.

"This is a case where everyone was so enamored and felt so much sympathy for the Holocaust survivor, it just overwhelmed everyone in the case, including the jury," Daniel said in an interview with The Associated Press. "Now to find out that the book was not true, that is fraud on the court."

Defonseca and her ghost writer, Vera Lee, said the truth of the 1997 book had no bearing on the jury's finding that Daniel cheated them out of profits.

"It has nothing to do with that," said Defonseca, 71, of Dudley.

"This credibility issue is something Jane is digging up now," Lee said. "That's not what the trial was about. It was about the fact that she cheated us."

Daniel met Defonseca in the 1990s while Daniel was doing publicity for a video company that had made a memorial video for Defonseca about her dog. "She said the reason she was so attached to dogs is because she had been so attached to wolves," Daniel recalled. Once she heard Defonseca tell her whole story, she asked her to write a book.

The harrowing tale of a little Jewish girl's survival became a best-seller in Europe, was translated into 18 languages, was turned into a feature film in France, and drew interest from the Walt Disney Co. and Oprah Winfrey.

But the book sold only 5,000 copies in the United States after Daniel had a falling out with Defonseca and Lee. The two sued Daniel for breach of contract. In 2001, a Middlesex District Court jury found that Daniel had failed to promote the book as promised and had hidden profits. The jury awarded Defonseca $7.5 million and Lee $3.3 million, but those amounts were later tripled by a judge who found Daniel and her small publishing company, Mt. Ivy Press, had misled both women and tried to claim royalties herself by rewriting the book.

In a brief telephone interview, Defonseca would not discuss her admission that she made up most of the details of the book. In February she acknowledged that her book was a fantasy that she kept repeating.

"This story is mine. It is not actually reality, but my reality, my way of surviving," Defonseca said in a statement released by her lawyers. Defonseca admitted the book was not true after a genealogical researcher working with Daniel on her own book about the case uncovered inconsistencies in her story, including records that showed Defonseca was baptized Catholic and had attended an elementary school in Schaarbeek, Belgium, in 1943, during a time in which she said in her book she was living with wolves in Ukraine.

Daniel's lawyers are asking a judge to overturn the jury's award because Defonseca "perpetrated a hoax" on Daniel, her publishing company, the public, the trial judge and a state appeals court that upheld the verdict. They said Defonseca directly violated a provision in her publishing contract with Daniel in which she affirmed that the content of the book was true.

"From the outset, she breached her contract, but nobody knew it until much later," said Brian McCormick, one of Daniel's lawyers.

Lee's attorney Frank Frisoli said too much time has gone by for Daniel to challenge the verdict now. Also, after the judgment, Daniel reached agreements with both Lee and Defonseca to settle with Daniel for far less than $32.4 million. Daniel said her father paid $425,000 to Defonseca, while Lee received $250,000 from a settlement Daniel received after suing her literary agent and has the right to sell her house in Gloucester.

AP

In this file photo dated Sept. 20, 2001, Misha Defonseca, left, and Vera Lee, who are co-authors of a memoir of Misha's childhood during the Holocaust, pose for a photograph on Sept. 20, 2001, in Newton, Mass.

Lee said that she warned Daniel several times during the writing of the book that some aspects of Defonseca's story were incredible, but that Daniel dismissed her concerns.

"I think she went along thinking she had a blockbuster and she didn't want to hear anything about it not possibly being true," Lee said.

When news of the hoax came out in February, however, Lee said that she had always believed Defonseca's stories and that and no research she did gave her a reason to do otherwise.

"She always maintained that this was truth as she recalled it, and I trusted that that was the case," Lee said then.

Daniel has said she could not fully research Defonseca's story before it was published because the woman claimed she did not know her parents' names, her birthday or where she was born.

Daniel acknowledges she had doubts about portions of Defonseca's story, but said she believed it after talking to Holocaust survivors.

"If you read a lot of Holocaust literature, all survivor stories are miraculous," she said.

Fourth 'Idol' judge a straight-shooting hitmaker

NEW YORK (AP)—Scooching in between Simon Cowell, Paula Abdul and Randy Jackson sounds intimidating, if not a little scary.

But Kara DioGuardi, the newly-installed fourth judge on "American Idol," is confident she'll find her niche within the bickering, ratings-tested judges' panel where the line between love and hate is blurred with every critique.

"I'm just gonna speak to Simon the way I speak to everybody," DioGuardi told reporters during a teleconference Monday. "I'm just gonna have my opinion, be honest and I don't foresee any problems. I'm really excited about this, and up for the challenge."

The Grammy-nominated songwriter will make her debut when the eighth season of "Idol" premieres in January, the Fox network said Monday.

"It's really flattering too, you know, to think that (`Idol') even thought about me," she said. "I mean, when I got the call, I thought they were calling the wrong person. So I'm the new kid on the block, and I'm hoping everyone's gonna go easy on me—and that I bring a lot to the table."

It's not yet clear how ties will be broken in the audition process—in past seasons, two out of three judges had to agree to advance aspiring pop stars to the Hollywood round. And something will have to give during the telecast that barely has enough time to fit in three judges' opinions. DioGuardi, now the youngest "Idol" judge at 37, said she leads a "low-key" life. In that case, she'd do well to prepare for the instant celebrity that comes with appearing on the most popular—and lucrative—reality show on television.

Which begs the question: Who IS Kara DioGuardi?

"I'm maybe not a household name, but people know of me in the industry," said DioGuardi, who co-owns the Los-Angeles based company Arthouse Entertainment, which is now producing music by recent "Idol" runner-up David Archuleta.

DioGuardio's songs have been recorded by Kelly Clarkson, Christina Aguilera, Gwen Stefani, Celine Dion, Faith Hill, Carrie Underwood and Pink, among others. Her recent Top 40 hits include Stefani's "Rich Girl," Aguilera's "Ain't No Other Man," Clarkson's "Walk Away" and Dion's "Taking Chances."

In 2000, the New York-born songwriter and longtime friend Abdul co-wrote the dance tune "Spinning Around" for Aussie pop star Kylie Minogue.

Her TV experience includes appearing a judge on the short-lived ABC reality series "The One: Making a Music Star" in 2006.

DioGuardi begins her "Idol" journey Tuesday during auditions in New York. It will be the judges' first time together in one room; DioGuardi said she only just met host/ringleader Ryan Seacrest on Monday morning.

"You'll have to see if there are fireworks tomorrow," she cooed in her smoky voice.

Which begs another question: Why mess with chemistry that's working?

"We are turning the heat up on `Idol' this year and are thrilled to welcome Kara to the judges' table," said creator and executive producer Simon Fuller in a statement. "She is a smart, sassy lady, and one of America's most successful songwriters. We know she will bring a new level of energy and excitement to the show."

Executive producer Cecile Frot-Coutaz said a fourth judge isn't a new idea.

"We had originally intended for `American Idol' to have four judges," she said. "We've seen from our international series that having a fourth judge creates a dynamic that benefits both the contestants and the viewers."

DioGuardi plans to be a straight shooter. She wants to help contestants succeed, but she will be harsh when need be.

"I'd say I'm honest," she said. "I'd say I believe in what I believe in, and I'm willing to fight for it. And I'm pretty feisty."

As an "Idol" viewer, she said she's disagreed with each judge at one point—although admits that Cowell's criticism is generally "spot on." Some of her favorite past contestants were Clarkson and season-seven finalist Brooke White.

She hopes to find the The Next Big Thing.

AP

Kara DioGuardi celebrates being named Co-Songwriter of the Year during the 55th Annual BMI Pop Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif., in a Tuesday, May 15, 2007 photo.

'Idol' alum Ace Young to make Broadway debut

NEW YORK (AP)—Another "American Idol" alum is heading to "Grease" on Broadway.

Young

Ace Young, who competed on season five of the Fox show, joins the cast Sept. 9, playing Kenickie in the revival of the popular musical.

The 27-year-old singer-songwriter—known for his pretty looks and falsetto vocals—will make his debut two days after fellow "Idol" Taylor Hicks completes a two-month stint as Teen Angel. Hicks took home the "Idol" title in 2006.

Young will perform through Jan. 18.

"I'm really excited," he said. "I had a lot of things kind of open up for me and when the role of Kenickie was offered, it's something that I've always wanted to do as a kid. That's always been my favorite role from `Grease.'"

Young likes that Danny Zuko's right hand man is a guy's guy.

"That's a big side of me that a lot of people don't know," he said. "They didn't get to see that on `Idol.' You know, I have four older brothers. I was never trying to even care about what I was wearing. I was just trying to survive at the household."

'Spore' designer spills on explicit creatures

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Will Wright is not offended by the explicit monsters some folks have created using his evolution simulator, no matter which private parts they may resemble. In fact, Wright said he's been impressed with the indecent beasts spawned by a slimmed-down edition of "Spore," his much-anticipated but difficult-to-describe game.

"When you give players creative control, you have to expect they're going to do the unexpected," the prolific video game designer said. "Some of it's really good for what they were shooting for. It's amazingly explicit, especially when those creations are animated. We just have to make sure those people aren't messing up the experience for others."

That means "Spore"—due out Sept. 7 for Windows PC and Mac—will allow players to ban such critters from inhabiting their user-generated universes. Of course, there's much more to Wright's eight-years-in-the-making game than "Spore"-nography made with the "Spore Creature Creator," a standalone character editor released in advance of the full game. Creating life forms from scratch is only a piece of the final game, which allows players to go from squirming singled-cell organism to fully fledged space-dwelling civilization. Published by Electronic Arts and developed by Wright's Emeryville, Calif.-based studio Maxis, "Spore" takes a microscopic look at players' choices and their repercussions.

Unlike Wright's people simulator "The Sims," which went on to become the best-selling PC game of all time, the ever-changing gameplay in the five levels of "Spore" fluctuates based on decisions made by the user about their species, such as choosing to become a carnivore over a herbivore or deciding to destroy other creatures instead of socialize with them.

"You can play through the entire game without killing anything," said Wright. "It's very challenging but, it's also very beneficial. When the game initializes the relationships of other creatures or tribes or civilizations for the next level, many of those relationships have to do with how aggressive those creatures perceive you to be."

When Wright speaks about "Spore," he refers to it as a brand, not just a game or franchise. It's a business lesson the 48-year-old designer and Maxis co-founder learned after releasing "The Sims" in 2000, a game which revolutionized the industry, spawning multiple expansion packs and a sequel. A third edition of "The Sims" is currently in development.

"'The Sims' felt like we tripped into it," said Wright. "We weren't thinking of 'The Sims' as a brand. We were thinking of it as an offbeat computer game. With 'Spore,' we had the confidence that the players would always exceed our expectations if we gave them more creative control. From day one, we've been thinking about 'Spore' as a brand."

Procter & Gamble ties laundry to fashion

CINCINNATI (AP)—The Procter & Gamble Co. is linking laundry to fashion in what's billed as the biggest product launch yet for its venerable Tide brand.

Fashion mentor Tim Gunn of reality TV's "Project Runway" is among those involved in marketing the new "Total Care" products that P&G says draw on technology from its beauty products to let clothes keep their shape, color and new look longer through repeated washing.

The $60 million marketing campaign for the Tide detergent and Downy fabric softener products includes a tie-in with Ann Taylor Stores Corp.'s Loft unit and ads in such magazines as Elle, Vogue and Cosmopolitan, said spokesman Kash Shaikh.

It's an example of how P&G is banking on big-brand innovations to overcome a tradedown-minded U.S. consumer economy, and the company is promoting the line as a budget help because clothes can be worn more often and dry-cleaning bills reduced.

AP

A pedestrian walks past a billboard advertising Procter & Gamble's new Tide detergent and Downy fabric softener "Total Care" products, Thursday, Aug. 21, 2008, in Cincinnati.

"We are trying to drive some value—clothes, in simple terms, look good longer," said Alex Tosolini, a vice president for Fabric Care.

It's sort of an anti-aging line for clothes, using ingredients derived from Pantene hair products and Olay skin care, among others, the Cincinnati-based consumer goods company says.

Helping open the campaign is a Tide Web site featuring Gunn of Bravo's "Project Runway" and "Tim Gunn's Guide to Style" shows. He offers tips in online videos and will be in other ads, as will such fashion advisers as Jorge Ramon, June Ambrose and Charla Krupp, said Shaikh.

In September, promotions including samples will begin in Loft stores across the country. Julie Smart, who handles most laundry duty for a family of six in Jacksonville, Fla., said she's intrigued after seeing online promotions for Tide Total Care. She uses Unilever's All Free Clear but plans to test the new Tide product's claims of maintaining clothes' appearance while reducing the need for dry cleaning.

"It makes sense," she said. "Then you use less time shopping, less time driving, less aggravation. Overall, you would spend less money."

P&G officials have said offering new versions of major brands will help offset tendencies by consumers to look at lower-priced private label brands and other competitors.

Fall films: Bond, Bush, high school divas

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hollywood's heavy hitter, Harry Potter, has been sidelined for fall, with the sixth adventure about the boy wizard transported from its original November release into next summer's schedule.

Good thing the season has a deep bench, with Harry's backup players including James Bond, a heartthrob vampire, those slapshappy kids from "High School Musical," the yammering zoo animals from "Madagascar" and a party boy turned president.

A peek at five of fall's must-see flicks:

AP

In this image released by Summit Entertainment, Kristen Stewart, left, and Robert Pattinson are shown in a scene from, "Twilight."

"TWILIGHT"

Based on the first installment in Stephenie Meyer's best-selling series, this vampire romance centers on a teen (Kristen Stewart) in a love affair with a dazzling bloodsucker (Robert Pattinson) with a just-say-no policy on feeding off humans. "He doesn't want to be a monster, he doesn't want to kill people," says director Catherine Hardwicke. "He loves her, but if he gets too passionate, he will want her blood. He will want to kill her."

AP

In this image released by Disney Enterprises, from left, Vanessa Hudgens, Zac Efron, Ashley Tisdale and Jason Williams are shown in a scene from, "High School Musical 3."

"HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3: SENIOR YEAR"

The Disney Channel sensation comes to the big-screen, reuniting basketball jock Troy (Zac Efron) and brainiac Gabriella (Vanessa Hudgens), along with stage rivals Sharpay (Ashley Tisdale) and Ryan (Lucas Grabeel). "The set decoration is insane and beautiful. To think, in the first movie, we only had a ladder," Tisdale says. "Everything's bigger, from details like the wardrobe, because of how big the screen is, and the musical numbers are so much bigger."

"QUANTUM OF SOLACE"

James Bond picks up where he left off in "Casino Royale," in a vengeful mood over the death of his great love and taking arms against a bad guy trying to corner the market on water. "It literally takes place 20 minutes after `Casino Royale' ends," says Daniel Craig, who returns for his second gig as Bond. "We pick the story up obviously with James Bond out for revenge, on a personal vendetta. It then gets more complicated than that."

In this image released by Sony Pictures, Daniel Craig stars as James Bond 007 in pursuit of an Mi6 traitor in a scene from "Quantum of Solace."

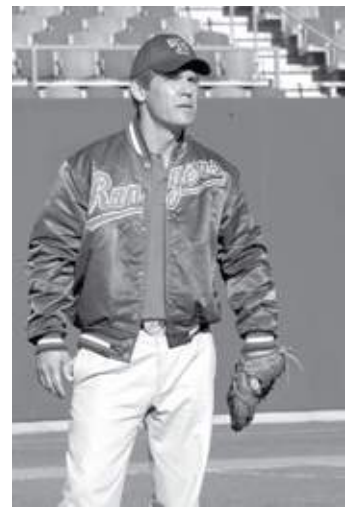
AP

AP

In this image released by Dreamworks/Paramount Pictures, a scene from the animated feature "Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa."

"MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA"

Voice stars Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, Jada Pinkett Smith and David Schwimmer reunite for the further adventures of zoo animals getting back to nature. The sequel sets up a weird romance between Schwimmer's giraffe and Pinkett Smith's hippopotamus. "He has this crush on her and finally confesses," Schwimmer says. "He believes he's only got a short time to live and that he's come down with this disease, so he's kind of convinced he's got to get up the nerve to tell her how he feels before he dies."



AP

In this image released by Lionsgate, Josh Brolin portrays George W. Bush in a scene from Oliver Stone's, "W."

"W."

Oliver Stone has done presidents before, No. 37 with "Nixon," No. 35 (or at least the aftermath of his assassination) with "JFK." But with George W. Bush (Josh Brolin), he's having a go at a current commander in chief. "We're telling it while he's still in office, which has never been done," says Elizabeth Banks, who plays Laura Bush. "The Bush family is a political dynasty. In America, it's the closest thing we have to a political dynasty."

Judge won't delay OJ Simpson trial in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A judge on Monday rejected a request by a co-defendant of O.J. Simpson to delay their upcoming trial on charges of armed robbery and kidnapping. A lawyer for Clarence "C.J." Stewart had asked Clark County District Judge Jackie Glass to put off the Sept. 8 trial until the Nevada Supreme Court considers Stewart's request for a separate trial.

Stewart's lawyers argue that it will be impossible for him to get a fair trial because most of the focus will be on Simpson, an NFL Hall of Fame player, actor and advertising pitchman who was acquitted in 1995 of charges that he murdered his ex-wife and her friend.

A hearing date on the fair trial issue has not been set. Stewart lawyer Robert Lucherini said he also would appeal the decision to not delay the trial. The trial is expected to last at least five weeks.

Stewart and Simpson face felony charges of kidnapping, armed robbery and assault with a deadly weapon stemming from a confrontation with two sports memorabilia dealers in a Las Vegas casino hotel room last September.

They are the last two defendants in the case. Four men who accompanied Simpson and Stewart accepted plea deals and agreed to testify against Simpson.

A kidnapping conviction carries the possibility of life in prison with the possibility of parole, and a robbery conviction would mean mandatory prison time.

Simpson maintains that he went to the hotel room to retrieve items stolen that had been from him, that he didn't ask anyone to bring guns and that he didn't know anyone in the room was armed.

AP

In this Nov. 8, 2007 file photo, Clarence Stewart, O.J. Simpson's only remaining co-defendant, listens in a courtroom during a preliminary hearing, in Las Vegas.

Actor with 'Gone With the Wind' opening line dies

ATLANTA (AP)—Fred Crane, the one-time actor whose Southern accent won him a slot as one of Scarlett O'Hara's beaux and the opening line in "Gone With the Wind," has died.

Crane, who played one of the Tarleton twins in the 1939 classic, was 90. His wife, Terry Lynn Crane, told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution that he died on Thursday of complications from diabetes. She declined to give details.

The couple had lived in Barnesville south of Atlanta, where they operated Tarleton Oaks. The bed and breakfast was named for his character in the film, Brent Tarleton.

The other Tarleton twin was played by George Reeves, who later gained TV immortality as Superman.

Born in New Orleans, Crane stumbled into his role on "Gone With the Wind." He was not yet an actor when he accompanied a cousin who wanted to audition for the movie.

The casting director liked the 20-year-old's Southern twang, and he wound up being cast.

The film opens with Crane's character asking O'Hara, played by Vivien Leigh: "What do we care if we were expelled from college, Scarlett? The war is going to start any day now, so we'd have left college anyhow." Her reply to Crane and Reeves contains one of the movie's classic lines: "Fiddle-dee-dee. War, war, war. This war talk's spoiling all the fun at every party this spring. I get so bored I could scream."

Crane also had roles in the 1949 Cisco Kid movie "The Gay Amigo," and acted on television during the 1960s. He also hosted a classical music radio show in Los Angeles for 40 years.

He did not attend the 1939 premiere of "Gone With the Wind" and for decades he did not exploit his role. But Crane did channel his character later, at Tarleton Oaks, located in a 19th century mansion.

Fourth child on the way for Charlie Sheen

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Make that "Two and a Half Men," three daughters and a baby on the way for Charlie Sheen.

The actor is expecting a child with wife Brooke Mueller, Sheen announced Monday in a statement.

"Brooke and I are thrilled!" the star of the CBS hit "Two and a Half Men" wrote. "She's the best stepmom Sam, Lola and Cassandra could ever hope for. Seeing her love and affection with those three, I know she'll be an amazing mom. Unless I bat 100 percent, perhaps a boy awaits us."

Sheen has three daughters: 25-year-old Cassandra Jade Estevez, whose mother is Sheen's former girlfriend Paula Profit, and two girls with ex-wife Denise Richards. Sheen and Richards are still embroiled in a bitter custody battle over 3-year-old Sam and 2-year-old Lola.

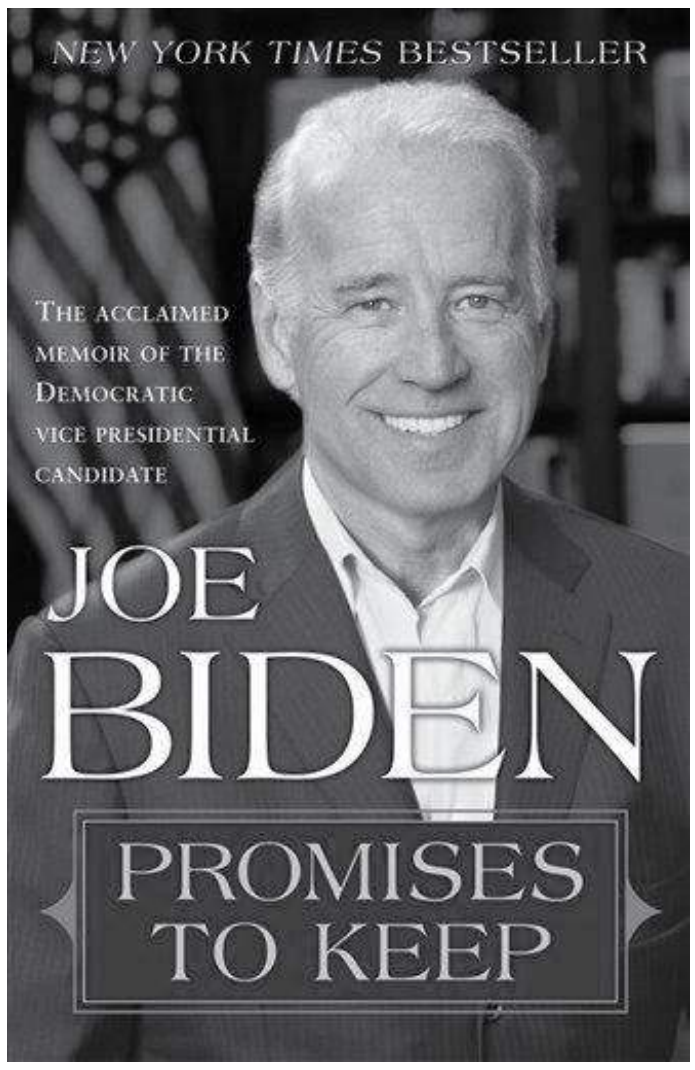
Sheen and Mueller, a real estate investor, tied the knot in late May.

'Promises to Keep' a hit for Biden

NEW YORK (AP)—The publisher of Sen. Joe Biden's memoir, an instant best seller for the presumed vice presidential nominee, is being reissued in paperback with a first printing of 100,000.

The Random House Publishing Group released "Promises to Keep" in hardcover a year ago. After a brief appearance on The New York Times' hardcover best-seller list, the book quickly faded, as did Biden's presidential candidacy, which ended in early January.

According to Nielsen BookScan, which tracks about 70 percent of sales, the memoir had only sold 15,000 copies before last weekend's announcement that Sen. Barack Obama had chosen Biden as his running mate. "Promises to Keep" quickly reached the top 25 on Amazon.com and was out of stock as of Monday afternoon


NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
THE ACCLAIMED MEMOIR OF THE DEMOCRATIC VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE
JOE BIDEN
PROMISES TO KEEP

'Battlestar Galactica' franchise steams ahead

NEW YORK (AP)Need proof the television ratings system is dead, a victim of the TiVo, the ubiquitous satellite dish and schizophrenic viewing habits? Take a look at what's happening with "Battlestar Galactica."

If the traditional ratings system is used to measure its success, well, the series is scraping bottom like a viper throwing sparks on a hot landing.

Yet the show's producers are moving forward with two post-"Galactica" projects that would never have seen the light of a cathode tube had ratings been the only factor in the decisions.

Jamie Bamber, the British actor who plays Lee "Apollo" Adama in the series, has a much better way to gauge ratings. Turns out, as the ratings plummet, the show's popularity continues to skyrocket as it reaches the end of its five-year run early in 2009.

AP

In this image released by Sci-Fi Channel, Jamie Bamber is shown in a scene from "Battlestar Galactica."

"When the numbers were high I would get stopped in the street maybe once a week," Bamber said. "Now that the viewing figures are lower on the TV, everywhere I go someone will come up to me and say what a huge fan they are. That just tells me that people watch the show in a more modern way and that it has reached its sort of critical mass."

"Galactica" wrapped shooting in July and the final 10 episodes will begin airing in January. But the franchise won't stop there.

Producers recently announced end-of-the-summer production of a two-hour standalone "Galactica" prequel that will air in 2009 after the series finale. And they've also shot a pilot for a new series called "Caprica," which has yet to be picked up by the network but seems destined to air.

These things never used to happen. There never would've been a "Rhoda" had "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" tanked. "Fish" would've been fried had it not been for the popularity of "Barney Miller."

"Galactica's" numbers—to put it politely—have begun to stink. The latest Nielsen ratings seem to indicate the show's viewers are as hard to find as the fleet's mythical destination of Earth. The series averaged 2.8 million viewers an episode during Season 1. During the most recent run of 10 episodes, the show averaged 2.2 million viewers, a slight dip overall but up from Seasons 2 and 3. The series lost some of that steam by the midseason finale, falling to just 1.8 million viewers.

Co-executive producer Michael Angeli thinks the numbers are irrelevant, however. He believes most "Galactica" fans have atypical viewing habits and take advantage of new technology to watch the show whenever they want.

"I think we were one of the first ones," Angeli said. "TiVo had just sort of taken off. This was four or five seasons ago, and because we were on Friday nights most people, most fans don't watch it (on first run). They TiVo it and watch it a zillion times."

Others rent or buy the DVDs after the season is over and watch in long marathons. To take advantage of this group, producers will be releasing the two-hour movie on DVD shortly after it appears on SciFi.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Andy Dick won't face sex battery charge

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Prosecutors say they won't charge Andy Dick with sexual battery stemming from his arrest last month. The "NewsRadio" actor with a reputation for crude public behavior is still scheduled to face a judge later this week on misdemeanor drug possession and battery charges. But he escaped felony charges after prosecutors reviewed video of the incident, Riverside County District Attorney spokesman Ryan Hightower said. A teenage girl accused the 42-year-old actor of pulling down her top at a restaurant in Murrieta, a city about 80 miles east of Los Angeles in mid-July. Dick was arrested by officers responding to reports of an intoxicated male. Dick is scheduled to appear in court Wednesday.

Deputy pulls gun during stop of Diddy's entourage

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A sheriff's deputy pulled a gun on members of Diddy's entourage during a routine traffic stop over the weekend, but the situation was quickly resolved and a spokesman for the entertainer said the deputy was professional and respectful. The gun was never pointed at the hip-hop mogul, and deputies were "very respectful" during the stop early Saturday, spokesman Ed Tagliaferri said Monday. Diddy was traveling on Sunset Boulevard in a seven-car convoy when a deputy pulled over one of the vehicles. Combs was not in the car that was stopped for having an expired registration tag. Sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore says the deputy became concerned when several men approached the vehicle. The deputy unholstered his gun and the situation quickly cooled down. No citations were issued because the car was a rental.

Husband's hairdresser is getting under wife's skin

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: For the past 25 years, my husband, "Don," has had his hair cut by a woman I'll call "Barber-Ella." She's slim, attractive and full of energy. Don has mentioned that she often pats him on the leg and kind of flirts with him.

We have been married 35 years, and I've never had a reason to mistrust him. Our life hasn't been a bed of roses. We have a 30-year-old disabled daughter who lives with us. I have rheumatoid arthritis, which causes me pain and saps my energy. The medication has made me gain weight in my belly and face, and I feel unattractive.

Barber-Ella seems to have a lot of influence on Don. She persuades him to buy certain products, and once talked him out of a medical procedure "because it went wrong for a friend." Recently he told me she has been telling him dirty jokes and using four-letter words in the telling. Don says, "She likes to see how red my ears get." Although she is married, I'm not convinced that's all she's up to.

I feel this woman's behavior is inappropriate. Does this have more to do with my own insecurities than with her? Why does she do this? Should I ask him to change stylists? Should I call her and ask when she'll be adding lap dances to her services?

I don't want to put Don on the defensive or make it seem like I don't trust him. Please give me your opinion because I'm losing perspective.

REALLY UPSET IN ST. PAUL, MINN.

DEAR UPSET: Gladly, and here it is: Your husband has been Barber-Ella's client for 25 years. She probably flirts with him because she thinks he likes it. (Her other male clients may also find it flattering.) As to the jokes, she may tell them because she heard them from other clients, thinks they're funny and is trying to entertain him. If any of this posed a threat to you, your husband would not tell you about it.

I'm a strong believer in patterns of behavior. Unless your spouse is getting more haircuts than he needs and his time is unaccounted for, I don't think you have anything to worry about.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am the youngest of four girls. I share a room with my sister, "Noelle," who is the next-to-the-youngest. We fight a lot. Recently, during an argument, Noelle told me our oldest sister told her our parents only had me because Dad wanted to try "one more time" for a boy. She said Dad was disappointed that I was a girl and wished they hadn't had a fourth kid.

I don't know if this is true. My sister could have said it to be mean. It makes sense, though. I mean, what man wouldn't be hoping for a boy after three girls? It hurts me to think that I wasn't really wanted.

I love my dad, and I think he loves me, but I always did have the feeling that he was somehow disappointed in me and loved my older sisters more. I'm afraid to talk to him about it for fear of finding out that it's true. What should I do?

HURT IN SACRAMENTO

DEAR HURT: If you're afraid to talk to your father, then you should tell your mother what Noelle said. It was nasty, calculated to hurt, and I'd be very surprised if there was any truth to it.

Let's look at it logically. If that were true, then it would apply to sister No. 2 and Noelle -- not just you. Not every man longs for a son. Some are very happy to be surrounded by women and the center of attention.

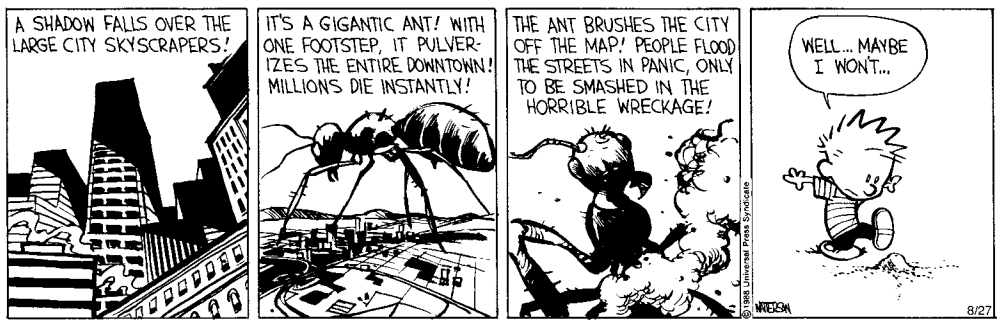
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson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WATTERSON
8/27

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By Jim Davis

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JIM DAVIS 8-27

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Big hoopla
4 Bake-sale org.
7 Give the cold shoulder
8 Radium discoverer
10 Bikini, e.g.
11 "Hairspray" actress Bynes
13 Queen's attendant
16 Caustic solution
17 Search
18 Gratuity
19 Melville's Billy
20 Deep sleep
21 Check casher
23 Fern product
25 After curfew
26 Primary
27 Interjection in "Cathy" comics
28 Oyster's prize
30 Manhandle
33 1967 Audrey Hepburn film
36 Address bitingly
37 Cousins' moms
38 "The final frontier"
39 The Bee —
40 Prepared
41 Right angle

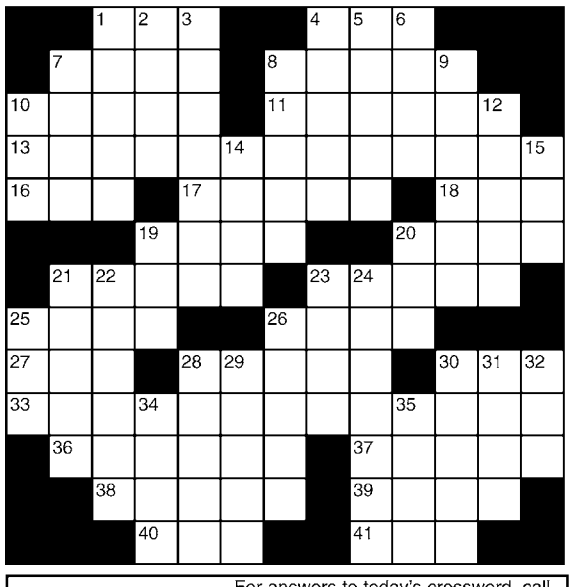
DOWN

1 Battery terminal
2 "— noted"
3 Inclined
4 Cougars
5 Characteristic
6 "— She Sweet?"
7 Go no further
8 Made crow noises
9 Masthead name
10 The whole enchilada
12 Japanese cartooning style
14 Undraped
15 Coll. transcript stat
19 "See ya"
20 Opposed to
21 Rodents of South America
22 Dr. Robert, with an eponymous diet
23 Darjeeling dress
24 Loot, as the Vikings did
25 Legislation
26 Photo finish?
28 Erstwhile larvae
29 Establish, as 25-Down
30 Game-show group
31 Crafts' partners
32 Yr. divisions
34 Spigots
35 One-on-one battle

Solution time: 21 mins.

B	R	A	D	■	B	E	L	■	C	H	U	M
E	U	R	O	■	E	R	E	■	O	U	S	E
E	S	A	U	■	D	R	I	B	B	L	E	S
P	E	B	B	L	E	S	■	A	W	A	S	H
■	■	■	L	O	W	■	O	R	E	■	■	■
T	E	N	E	T	■	N	I	B	B	L	E	S
A	C	E	■	■	M	I	L	■	■	A	L	P
G	O	B	B	L	E	S	■	T	A	C	K	Y
■	■	■	R	O	W	■	M	A	T	■	■	■
A	G	G	I	E	■	B	U	B	B	L	E	S
Q	U	I	B	B	L	E	S	■	E	A	R	L
U	N	B	E	■	O	A	K	■	S	T	O	A
A	G	E	S	■	P	R	Y	■	T	E	S	T

Yesterday's answer 8-27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alexa Vega, 20; Sarah Chalke, 32; Chandra Wilson, 39; Willy DeVille, 58

Happy Birthday: Bring on the charm and you will win your way into whatever situation you desire. Partnerships of all kinds will flourish. You will be the one to put things back in order and make them work. Know your value and you will be respected and rewarded. Your numbers are 5, 20, 26, 32, 39, 45

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Today you must bide your time, enjoy every moment and savor the simple pleasures in life. If you get all wrapped up in what's going on around you, you will miss out on connecting with someone who can change your world. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Something good will come out of hooking up with someone you used to know. Your openness to share your current situation and challenges will result in some hands-on help and a boost to your ego and your cash flow. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't let love or an emotional matter stand in the way of your plans. It's getting caught up in the melodrama that others want to inflict on you that will be your downfall. Nothing is more important than reaching your goals. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Be honest about the way you feel, even if it does make you vulnerable. It's that very quality that will help you win favors. Someone will recognize your sensitivity and honesty and want to be a part of your world. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): A change in your status or a gift or unexpected contribution will make your day. Your strength will come from your ability to entertain everyone who has anything to offer you. It's a good day to seal deals, collect debts and challenge the competition. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Your willingness to help the underdog will put you ahead of anyone who challenges you today. Love is in the stars and the chance of making alterations to your personal life that will change your future for good are looking positive. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't let your emotions get involved in what you have to do or you will fall short of what's expected of you. Take a different approach. Delve into a self-awareness program that will enable you to make personal improvements to your life. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Your unique way of explaining the way things can work will capture an audience and lead to achieving your goals. A change in your personal life and status is apparent. Open up to suggestions but don't cheat. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Instant payback may appear to be heading your way but someone is likely to intervene if you have been too vocal. Keep things to yourself until after the fact when you know everything is signed, sealed and delivered. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Give whatever it takes to get your personal life working for you. You will find a way by searching through what you have that will make a difference to someone you want to please. Travel for business and you will prosper. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't let anyone push his or her responsibilities in your lap. You have to do your share but, once you have taken care of business, allow yourself a little time to pursue your interests. An emotional connection will be made. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): A partnership that you tried to form in the past can now be put together. Revive an old idea that has far more leverage and possibilities now than in the past. Socialize for business purposes. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are bold and brave and can convince others to follow your lead. You are emotional, a strong competitor, reliable and open to suggestions.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			7	5	4	3	9	2
			2					1
			3					5
			5					6
			9					3
	1	2	6			7	5	4
3			8		6			9
7			4		2			8
	8	9				6	4	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	9	4	2	6	7	5	3	1
5	6	2	3	1	9	7	8	4
3	7	1	4	8	5	9	2	6
4	2	6	7	5	3	1	9	8
1	3	9	6	2	8	4	5	7
7	5	8	1	9	4	2	6	3
2	4	7	5	3	6	8	1	9
6	8	5	9	7	1	3	4	2
9	1	3	8	4	2	6	7	5

Difficulty Level ★★ 8/26

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TYROSINE **Solution: 7 letters**

N	O	I	S	S	E	R	P	P	U	S	K	I	N	P
O	O	V	T	A	S	Y	R	T	S	I	M	E	H	C
I	N	I	T	U	L	D	D	R	I	V	E	O	H	I
T	E	T	T	P	R	U	E	A	H	Y	T	L	S	O
A	K	A	E	A	H	K	M	E	I	O	O	T	S	N
L	C	L	I	B	R	O	E	R	S	R	N	E	E	A
U	I	I	D	O	L	T	S	Y	O	E	Y	N	N	P
M	H	T	W	O	R	G	N	P	M	F	R	E	T	O
I	C	Y	N	S	S	T	H	E	H	A	I	R	R	R
T	O	E	L	T	H	Y	L	O	C	A	I	G	E	P
S	H	I	R	E	L	P	R	E	I	N	T	Y	L	A
P	A	E	S	(L)	P	M	L	S	T	D	O	E	A	P
N	S	I	(A)	U	O	L	G	A	S	D	I	C	A	A
S	S	(E)	S	N	S	G	K	N	I	L	U	S	N	I
C	(H)	E	E	S	E	E	T	N	E	I	R	T	U	N

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Yesterday's Answer: Attractions

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Find today's solution in this section

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR NOTICE

SEPTEMBER 2008 OFFICE HOURS FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING OFFICE

During September 2008, the Administrative Hearing Office will be open from 8:30 am to 11 am and from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm. The shortened hours during September are to allow staff time to update databases, prepare notices, prepare files, and attend to other administrative tasks for the coming calendar quarter.

POSTING OF NOTICES OF DEFICIENCY AND DENIAL

For actions by the Director of Labor after August 15, 2008 to declare a deficiency or denial with respect to an application, the posting of the notice of the Director's action will be on the Department's website, www.marianaslabor.net, and by physical posting in the public area of the Department of Labor offices, Afetna Square Building, second floor, San Antonio. The purpose of posting notices on the website is so that all concerned, employers and employees, have equal access to the necessary information. In the past, mail service sometimes did not reach all parties in a timely way.

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Classified Ads

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- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

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Classified Ads

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Olympic champs Nadal, Dementieva win at US Open

NEW YORK (AP)—Olympic champions Rafael Nadal and Elena Dementieva showed their mettle at the U.S. Open, overcoming early challenges to win Monday in the start of what's expected to be a wide-open tournament.

Former champs Lindsay Davenport and Svetlana Kuznetsova also opened with straight-sets victories. Many of the stars like to hurry through the first round—it takes seven wins for the title, and any rest is welcome.

Playing for the first time as the world No. 1, Nadal swatted his very first shot wide against No. 136 Bjorn Phau. The Wimbledon and French Open champ was two points from dropping the first set when he surged and, despite needing to bandage a nasty blister, won 7-6 (4), 6-3, 7-6 (4).

"I didn't play with normal intensity," Nadal said. "Probably I'm a little bit tired."

Asked whether he was more worn down mentally, physically or emotionally from Beijing, he said: "I think it is a little bit of everything."

Nadal got a stiffer test from the German qualifier than many anticipated, and shook his head near the end of a match that lasted nearly 3 hours.

Dementieva looked like gold while taking the final four games to defeat Akgul Amanmuradova 6-4, 7-5. The fifth-seeded Russian was glad to win quickly and give her mind and body a break.

"It's very hard not to think about the Olympic Games," Dementieva said. "Very difficult to refocus. I mean, all my thinking is there in Beijing."

Tenth-seeded Anna Chakvetadze was the top player to lose, beaten by Ekateria Makarova 1-6, 6-2, 6-3 in a matchup of Russians.

James Blake and Jelena Jankovic led the lineup of Monday night matches.

Roger Federer, bidding for his fifth straight U.S. Open title, was scheduled to begin Tuesday, as were No. 1 Ana Ivanovic and the Williams sisters.

The final Grand Slam event of the season figured to be a scramble on both sides.

Nadal seems like the natural favorite, yet has never gone beyond the quarterfinals in five previous tries at Flushing Meadows. The 22-year-old Spanish dynamo took a while to find his rhythm against Phau, whose spirited play made him a crowd favorite.

AP

Rafael Nadal, of Spain, celebrates his win over Bjorn Phau, of Germany, at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Monday, Aug. 25, 2008.

Fans at Arthur Ashe Stadium, often quiet during early daytime sessions, cheered when Phau dived for a shot, rolled over on his back and chased a return.

The women's draw is even more tricky, now that 2007 champion Justine Henin has retired and Maria Sharapova is out with an injured shoulder.

Six different women have won the U.S. Open in the last seven years, and Dementieva is seeking her first major championship. To her, the Olympic singles title counts.

"The biggest goal for the year was Beijing," she said. "In Russia, if you stop anyone in the street and ask what is a Grand Slam, I don't think many people can tell you. But everyone knows the Olympic Games. There is nothing bigger."

During a quick stopover in Moscow to see her mom and drop off her gold medal, she found out how much the win meant.

"People just come to me and say, 'Oh, I'm happy for you. You're always losing in the final. It's so great that you finally win something big,'" she said.

Dementieva put together a workmanlike win over Amanmuradova. Her opponent from Uzbekistan served for the second set ahead 5-3, but Dementieva still had enough energy.

"I don't know what is best, to be a little bit tired but very comfortable and very positive, or to be fresh and not play in the Olympic Games," she said.

Li Na, who beat Venus Williams in Beijing, beat No. 24 Shahar Peer of Israel 2-6, 6-0, 6-1. The No. 23-seeded Davenport defeated Aleksandra Wozniak of Canada, 6-4, 6-2 and No. 3 Kuznetsova beat Zhang Shuai of China 6-4, 6-2.

No. 12 Marion Bartoli of France, No. 14 Victoria Azarenka of Belarus and No. 15 Patty Schnyer of Switzerland also won.

On the men's side, fourth-seeded David Ferrer of Spain beat Martin Vassallo Arguello of Argentina 7-6 (1), 6-2, 6-2 and No. 6 Andy Murray of Britain beat Sergio Roitman of Argentina, 6-3, 6-4, 6-0.

Also winning were No. 7 David Nalbandian of Argentina, No. 10 Stanislas Wawrinka and No. 16 Gilles Simon of France. The No. 29-seeded Juan Monaco of Argentina lost to Kei Nishikori of Japan 6-2, 6-2, 5-7, 6-2.

Myers pitches Phillies to 5-0 win over Dodgers, completing 4-game sweep

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Brett Myers tossed seven gritty innings, Jimmy Rollins had three hits and two RBIs, and the Philadelphia Phillies completed their first four-game sweep of the Los Angeles Dodgers in 23 years with a 5-0 win Monday.

Philadelphia remained a half-game behind the National League East-leading New York Mets with its eighth victory in 10 games since losing four straight at Dodger Stadium. The Mets visit Tuesday for a two-game set.

It was the Phillies' first four-game sweep over the Dodgers since Aug. 29 to Sept. 1, 1985, at Los Angeles. Philadelphia had never swept the Dodgers in a four-game series at home.

Coming off his first shutout in four years, Myers (7-10) ran his scoreless innings streak to 16. He allowed nine hits, struck out eight and walked three.

Mets 9, Astros 1

At New York, Carlos Delgado hit a pair of three-run homers and Mike Pelfrey pitched his second straight complete game, leading New York over Houston.

Jose Reyes also had a big night at the plate, and Pelfrey came within two outs of his first major league shutout. The six-hitter followed his first career complete game, when he allowed three hits in a 6-3 victory over Atlanta last Wednesday.

With a crowd of 49,791 chanting his name, Pelfrey (13-8) became the first Mets pitcher with consecutive complete-game wins since Bret Saberhagen in 1995.

Cubs 12, Pirates 3

At Pittsburgh, Aramis Ramirez hit a three-run homer and Chicago beat Pittsburgh to improve baseball's best record.

Two slumping hitters, Jim Edmonds and Kosuke Fukudome, also had big games as the Cubs moved to 81-50—the first time they've been 31 games above .500 since they ended the 1984 season 96-65.

Fukudome, hitting .161 in August when the game began, drove in four runs. Edmonds had a triple and two doubles after going 0-for-17 over his previous seven games.

Padres 4, Diamondbacks 2

At San Diego, Jody Gerut hit a two-run homer off Jon Rauch in the bottom of the ninth inning, and San Diego snapped a seven-game losing streak by beating Arizona.

The loss kept first-place Arizona three games ahead of Los Angeles in the NL West.

Trevor Hoffman (2-6) pitched a scoreless inning for the win.

Luis Rodriguez singled with two outs in the ninth for his third hit and Gerut hit the next pitch from Rauch (4-5) into the right-field bleachers. It was Gerut's 14th home run of the season and seventh in August.

Rockies 4, Giants 2

At San Francisco, Jeff Francis got his first victory in more than two months, Yorvit Torrealba homered and Colorado beat San Francisco to win for the eighth time in 10 games.

Francis (4-8) was winless in his previous five starts but he maintained his recent domination of the Giants by allowing seven hits over seven innings and repeatedly pitching out of trouble after giving up two runs in the first.

The Rockies' left-hander, who has won his last four starts against San Francisco, worked out of bases-loaded jam with no outs in the third and benefited from a pair of double plays.

Indians 4, Tigers 3

At Detroit, Grady Sizemore homered twice to join the 30-30 club and Franklin Gutierrez hit a 10th-inning home run to help the Cleveland Indians beat the Detroit Tigers for their eighth straight win.

Sizemore homered on the game's second pitch and became the second Indians player to have at least 30 homers and 30 stolen bases in a season. Joe Carter also accomplished the feat with Cleveland in 1987. Sizemore is the 14th American League player to join the 30-30 club, and first since Alfonso Soriano did it for Texas in 2005.

Orioles 4, White Sox 3, 14 innings, end of suspended game White Sox 4, Orioles 3

At Baltimore, Jim Thome hit his 535th home run to gain sole possession of 15th place on the career list, and Chicago beat Baltimore after losing the completion of a game suspended by rain.

Thome's 28th homer of the season gave the White Sox a 4-3 lead in the sixth. The drive, off Baltimore rookie Chris Waters (2-1), moved Chicago's designated hitter past Jimmie Foxx and put him within one of Mickey Mantle on baseball's home run chart.

Earlier, Lou Montanez singled in the tiebreaking run in the 14th inning to give the Orioles a 4-3 victory in a game halted in Chicago after 11 innings on April 28.

In the regularly scheduled game, White Sox rookie Clayton Richard (2-2) gave up three runs and six hits in six innings.

In the suspended game, Baltimore's Nick Markakis led off the 14th with a single off Horacio Ramirez (1-3) and scored later in the inning when Montanez greeted D.J. Carrasco with a soft single to center. Alberto Castillo (1-0) got the final out in the 13th to earn his first major league victory.

Rangers 9, Royals 4

At Kansas City, Missouri, Nelson Cruz had three hits including a three-run homer in his season debut, and Texas beat Kansas City.

Cruz, promoted from Triple-A Oklahoma earlier in the day, homered in the third with Josh Hamilton and Marlon Byrd aboard. Cruz hit .342 with 37 home runs at Oklahoma and led the minors with a .693 slugging percentage,

Last July 28, Cruz was recalled from the minors and went had two homers and five RBIs at Kansas City in his first game of the season for Texas.

Athletics 2, Angels 1

At Anaheim, California, Dallas Braden pitched seven masterful innings, Daric Barton homered and Oakland beat AL West-leading Los Angeles.

Braden (4-3) allowed a run and seven hits without recording a strikeout or walk. The 25-year-old left-hander, who made his first nine appearances this season in relief before going to Triple-A Sacramento, is 3-3 in seven outings since being inserted back into the rotation on July 22.

Mariners 4, Twins 2, 11 innings

At Seattle, Adrian Beltre homered in the bottom of the 11th inning, and the Mariners kept Minnesota out of first place in the AL Central.

With one out in the 11th, Jesse Crain (5-4) walked Raul Ibanez on a full count. Then Beltre drilled a low, first-pitch fastball over the left-field fence to give Seattle the win. After he rounded the bases, Beltre was swarmed by teammates at home plate.

It was Seattle's second game-ending home run of the month and season, and the sixth walkoff homer of Beltre's career. The Mariners fell a game behind Chicago in the AL Central.

Dolphins: Pennington will start at QB

DAVIE, Fla. (AP)—Miami Dolphins coach Tony Sparano couldn't help but have a little fun Monday when he finally announced the winner of the team's drawn-out quarterback competition.

"It's Chad," he said, chuckling.

Chad Pennington or Chad Henne?

"Pennington," he added. "I think the guy will do a great job of managing our team. And the team has responded really well to him, and that's where we are going."

The announcement officially sets up an intriguing Week 1 matchup in Miami against the New York Jets, the team that cut Pennington to clear salary cap space for Brett Favre.

Pennington was the face of the Jets the past eight seasons and arrived in camp this year competing with Kellen Clemens for the starting job. The Jets released Pennington more than two weeks ago when they acquired Favre from Green Bay.

Pennington, who learned of the decision after practice Monday afternoon, was only made available to speak to the media before the announcement. But he released a statement through the team.

"I'm excited about the opportunity to lead this team," Pennington said. "We've worked extremely hard over the last two weeks, and I'm proud to be a Miami Dolphin."

The decision was hardly surprising.

Pennington was recognized as the starter when he signed with Miami. The 32-year-old separated himself from Miami's other quarterbacks—Henne, Josh McCown and John Beck—and has led the Dolphins to consecutive preseason wins in convincing fashion. He is 16-for-21 for 149 yards and one touchdown.

Perhaps more importantly, he quickly has become one of Miami's leaders. Pennington has held receivers after practice to work on routes and timing. And he's taken teammates out for dinners and movies just to get to know them.

"A heck of a leader," guard Justin Smiley said last week. "I mean, he doesn't know any of us from the man on the moon right now, but he comes into the huddle and says, 'Give me your eyes.'

"We didn't break the huddle good one time and he was like, 'Nah, nah, nah. Next time, we've got to stand and break the huddle.' Just stuff a veteran with great leadership would do. It's pretty exciting."

But the Dolphins have seen this act before.

Pennington will be the 13th starting quarterback for Miami since Dan Marino announced his retirement in 2000. And inconsistency at the position is perhaps why the Dolphins have missed the playoffs a record six straight seasons.

Coming off an embarrassing 1-15 season, the Dolphins are hoping Pennington can provide some stability this season and be a bridge and mentor to Henne. Pennington ranks first in NFL history among quarterbacks with at least 1,500 attempts with a 65.6 completion percentage.

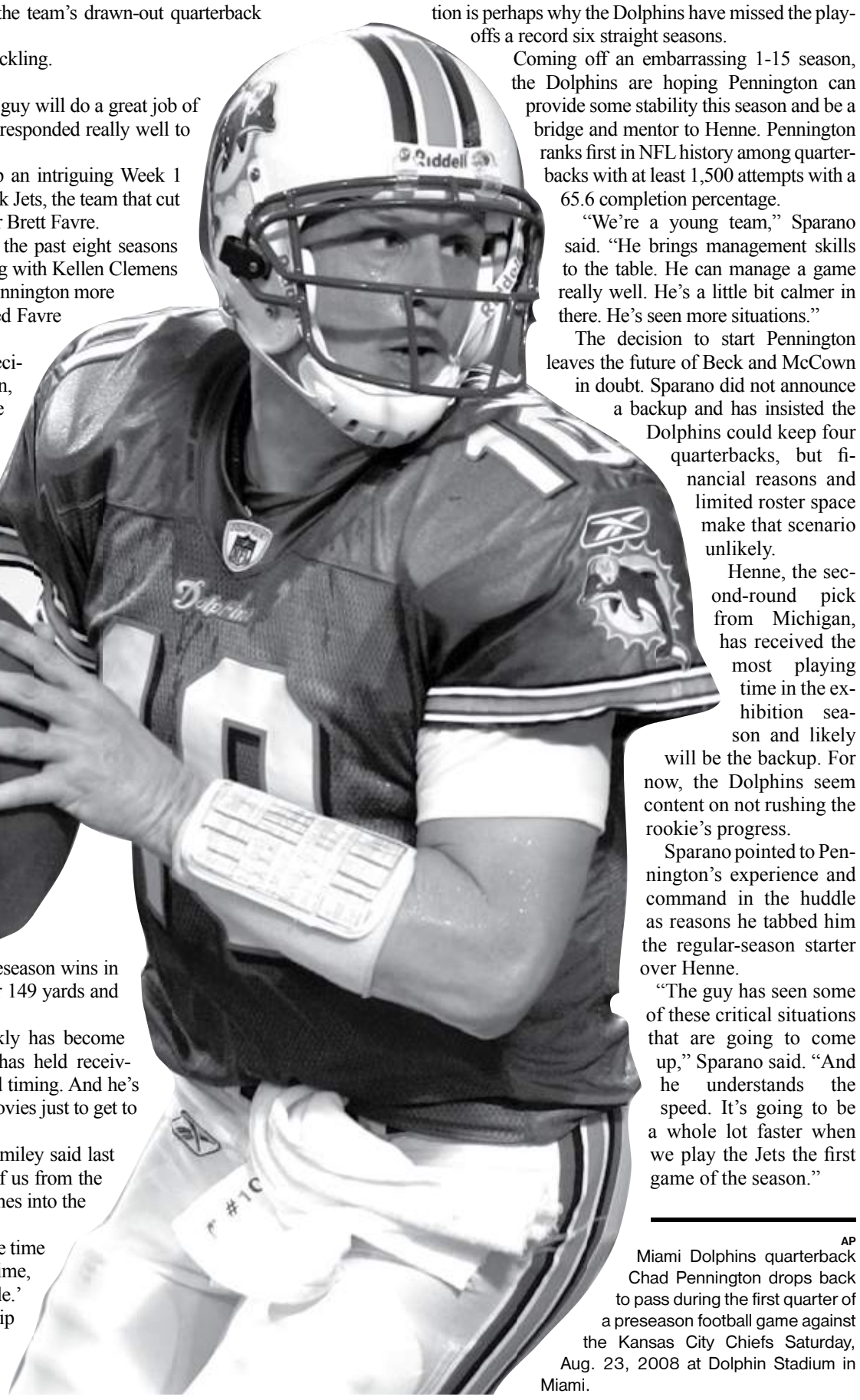
"We're a young team," Sparano said. "He brings management skills to the table. He can manage a game really well. He's a little bit calmer in there. He's seen more situations."

The decision to start Pennington leaves the future of Beck and McCown in doubt. Sparano did not announce a backup and has insisted the Dolphins could keep four quarterbacks, but financial reasons and limited roster space make that scenario unlikely.

Henne, the second-round pick from Michigan, has received the most playing time in the exhibition season and likely will be the backup. For now, the Dolphins seem content on not rushing the rookie's progress.

Sparano pointed to Pennington's experience and command in the huddle as reasons he tabbed him the regular-season starter over Henne.

"The guy has seen some of these critical situations that are going to come up," Sparano said. "And he understands the speed. It's going to be a whole lot faster when we play the Jets the first game of the season."



AP

Miami Dolphins quarterback Chad Pennington drops back to pass during the first quarter of a preseason football game against the Kansas City Chiefs Saturday, Aug. 23, 2008 at Dolphin Stadium in Miami.

Brady says he'll be ready for Pats' season opener

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Tom Brady says he'll be ready for the New England Patriots opener even if a foot injury keeps him from taking a single snap in exhibition games.

Last season's NFL MVP sat out the first three games and plans to tell coach Bill Belichick he's "feeling great" in hopes of playing in Thursday night's final exhibition game at the New York Giants, the team that ruined the Patriots' unbeaten season by beating them in the Super Bowl.

"I'm hoping I'm always out there," Brady said Monday on his regular weekly appearance on WEEI radio, "and if I don't play, I'll be ready for Kansas City."

The Patriots open the regular season at home against the Chiefs.

Brady was not available Monday to other members of the media.

The cause of Brady's right foot injury hasn't been disclosed, but he did everything the other quarterbacks did during the 15 minutes of practice open to the media Monday. He stretched, ran, did agility drills and dropped back without any apparent restriction when he threw passes.

Without Brady, the Patriots are 0-3 and have played poorly on offense, defense and special teams. Fourth-year backup Matt Cassel has started all three games but has been outplayed by Matt Gutierrez, in his second season with the team.

Asked if he thinks he'll be ready for the opener if he doesn't play in an exhibition game, Brady said: "Yeah, I sure do. I've been playing a lot of football, so whether you play or don't play (in the preseason) I'd be ready, no matter what. It's up to Coach. I was hoping I could play last week."

Randy Moss missed all four exhibition games last year, his first with the Patriots, then had nine catches for 183 yards in a season-opening win over the New York Jets, including a 51-yard touchdown pass from Brady.

One development that could improve Brady's chances of playing was two-time Pro Bowl left tackle Matt Light's return to practice Wednesday for the first time in about a month. That could give the quarterbacks better protection and expose Brady to less risk.

Starting right guard Stephen Neal remains on the physically unable to perform list and hasn't practiced or played in a game.

Wide receiver Wes Welker missed Monday's practice after injuring his ribs early in Friday night's 27-17 loss to the Philadelphia Eagles. His 112 catches last season tied T.J. Houshmandzadeh of Cincinnati for the NFL lead.

Belichick didn't give an update on his condition and Welker didn't comment to trailing reporters as he walked in one door of the locker room and out the door at the other end Monday.

Brady, though, sounded upbeat during his radio interview.

"I'm feeling very good," he said. "I was wishing I could play last week and it didn't happen and it'll be the same thing this week. I'm hoping I'm out there and if I'm not, I'm not. I'm trying to get better as fast as I can in the ways I know how. It's been making improvement. There's no doubt about it."

NFL BRIEFS

Giants contact Michael Strahan about return

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—The New York Giants are interested in luring Michael Strahan out of retirement after losing Pro Bowl defensive end Osi Umenyiora to a season-ending knee injury Saturday night. The Super Bowl champions have contacted the seven-time Pro Bowl defensive end to see if he is interested in ending a brief retirement, a person familiar with the discussions told The Associated Press on Monday. The person requested anonymity because the talks were in the early stages, and there is no guarantee that the 36-year-old Strahan wants to return. Tony Agnone, Strahan's agent, did not return messages left at his office and on his cell phone by The Associated Press on Monday.

Colts consider activating QB Manning on Tuesday

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Peyton Manning might be activated by the Indianapolis Colts on Tuesday, although the two-time NFL Most Valuable Player is not expected to play in the team's final preseason game Thursday night. Manning underwent surgery July 14 to have an infected bursa sac removed from his left knee and has been on the physically unable to perform list the entire preseason. He has never missed a regular-season start in his 10-year career. "We have a chance to get Peyton activated and out to practice. So we'll see how that goes," Colts coach Tony Dungy said Monday. Manning got limited light work in practice last week and was on the sideline, but not in uniform, during Sunday night's 20-7 loss to the Buffalo Bills. Backup quarterback Jim Sorgi, who started the first three preseason games in place of Manning, also missed Sunday's game because of a sore knee. Dungy said the Colts would not thrust Manning into a full workout schedule, even if he is activated. "I think we'll ease him in and see how he practices and what he's able to do," Dungy said. "We'll see from there." Manning did not speak with reporters Monday.

Redskins' Taylor is hopeful for opener vs. Giants

ASHBURN, Va. (AP)—Jason Taylor sported a big black brace on his right knee and the type of attitude he hopes will keep his consecutive games streak alive. "I have been a quick healer in the past," the Washington Redskins defensive end said Monday. "People think I'm old. I'm not that old yet, so hopefully those healing cells are still in there." Taylor sprained his knee in the second quarter of Saturday night's 47-3 loss to the Carolina Panthers. The Redskins estimate he'll be sidelined 10 to 14 days, which gives him a shot at returning for the Thursday night NFL opener Sept. 4 against the New York Giants. "I have every reason to believe he's going to be there, so my cup's half-full," coach Jim Zorn said. "But it's only half-full, because there's a chance he could miss the first one." Taylor hasn't missed a game since 1999. His streak of 130 consecutive regular-season starts ranks seventh among active players.

Falcons make rookie Matt Ryan their starting QB

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. (AP)—Rather than give Matt Ryan a few games to watch from the sideline, the Falcons decided on Sunday to throw the rookie into the fire as their starter. "Everything that you get in this game you've earned, whether it be a touchdown, a win, whatever it is," Ryan said. "In some sense, it is satisfying in that light, but trust me, there's a lot of work ahead, and I know that probably just as much as everybody around here. There's going to be some ups and downs, but you've just got to stay mentally tough and grind through it. That's where my mind-set is right now. First-year Atlanta coach Mike Smith said the No. 3 pick in the draft outperformed Chris Redman, Joey Harrington and D.J. Shockley on the field and in the classroom. In Smith's view, there was nothing ceremonial about this announcement even though Ryan signed a six-year, $72 million contract in May. Smith said the staff "watched every move he made" in observing Ryan's interaction with teammates and other club personnel. Offensive coordinator Mike Mularkey and Bill Musgrave told Smith that they had watched 3,000 snaps Ryan took in mini-camps, offseason workouts, training camp, scrimmages and preseason.

Barangay Ginebra simply wanted it more

MANILA, Philippines—In the end, the team that wanted it more triumphed. In the end, experience prevailed over desire.

In a championship series where momentum shifted back and forth, Barangay Ginebra ended Air21's ambition of a first-ever title Wednesday last week, overcoming injuries and a tense Game 7 to bring down a classic closing performance in the Smart PBA Fiesta Conference – the tournament many will remember the Kings ended with a blast despite starting it in a whimper.

Coach Jong Uichico described it as equally sweet to his seven previous personal championships, and even though he didn't say it, will perhaps rank among the best in his coaching achievements.

"What's there to say? Every championship means a lot, every win means a lot, whether its your first, your eighth. You're really happy because you've worked hard for a certain goal. The important thing is that you keep on trying.

"It's really hard to explain how we won this series."

Starting the tournament with five straight losses, Barangay Ginebra put an emphatic ending to the conference despite having to play without Jay-Jay Helterbrand. What made it worse for the Kings was that Mark Caguioa was in pain because of knee tendinitis and Paul Artadi also was hurting due to a pulled hamstring.

But those did not deter the Kings from their goal, fighting with what Uichico said was pure heart and denying the Express of a shock title conquest they were favored to achieve the moment they took 2-1 and 3-2 series leads.

It was a triumph, too, that defied logic – a Barangay Ginebra team winning despite being undermanned against an Air21 ball club that was healthy and deadset on ending a 6-year title drought or since they entered the league way back in 2002 under the banner of FedEx.

Uichico was humble enough not to take credit for the championship. He rather reserved the honor to the players, who he said were really the stars in the title showdown for playing with so much passion despite the odds.

He particularly mention Erik Menk, who in the title-clinching Game 7 scored eight points in the third quarter and finished with 21, a point behind another revelation in Ronald Tubid, the player who only started playing in the series in Game 3 when Helterbrand was no longer around.

Both were named co-MVPs for the Finals, giving Menk his third and Tubid his first. Overall, though, it was really a team effort.

"We could have easily given up when Jay-Jay got injured. We could have easily given up when Mark got injured. We could have easily given up when Paul got injured. But we didn't."

Ginebra won Game 7 when it held Air21 without a field goal in the last 4:27 while unleashing 14 unanswered points. The final score was 97-84, a result Barangay Ginebra would probably remember as one of its most epic in its eight championship accomplishments.

Game 7 was simply a coaching masterpiece. Import Chris Alexander already had five fouls early in the fourth quarter and even looked as if he also had pulled a hamstring at one point, but Uichico gambled and did not relieve him.

"Logic tells you that you take him (Alexander) out," said Uichico. "But if you take him out, it could have backfired. Steven Thomas would easily score. The only thing there was that he did not foul out."

Alexander, the Best Import of the tournament, survived the game despite being whistled for his fifth foul with a little over minutes left in the final period, a hole in Barangay Ginebra's defense Air21 couldn't crack. They also failed to capitalize on the absence of Junthy Valenzuela, who was taken out because of a knee injury late in the third period.

Coach Bo Perasol was a class in defeat, praising the Diety for a conference he said the team overachieved, and saying that Barangay Ginebra really deserved the win because 'they wanted it more."

"I've always been spiritual for everything we've accomplished this conference," said Perasol. "If we win, I will give all the glory to God. If we lose, that only means that He wants to make a lot of people happy. And tonight, a lot of people are happy because Barangay Ginebra won.

"Coach Jong was right, Ginebra was fighting and wanting it more."*(www.pba.com.ph)*

Applicants flash fighting forms in Rookie Camp

Bonus tallest, Mercado fastest

MANILA, Philippines—Assistant coaches Alex Compton (Rain or Shine) and Virgil Villavicencio were in attendance yesterday at the Emilio Aguinaldo College gym during the first day of the PBA Rookie Camp.

The two officials, who arrived before the 10 o'clock session started, were obviously trying to get a glimpse of the candidates and their possible picks in the coming Annual Draft scheduled on August 31 at the Market! Market! Activity Center in Taguig City.

3 of the 49 applicants showed up on the first day of the two-day camp conducted by PBA Supervisor of Officials and camp director Ramil Cruz. Noticeably absent at the session intended to showcase the skills and strength of the rookies was Gabe Norwood, a probable No.1 pick if he completes the requirements.

The former national team member and slam dunk artist is reportedly in the U.S. but his agent Michael Chan reportedly said Norwoods's certificate of recognition and affirmation from the Department of Justice was to be submitted to the PBA Office before the 5 p.m. deadline yesterday.

The other Fil-foreign bred aspirants – Solomon Mercado, Rob Reyes, Kevin Dalafu, Jared Dillinger, Christopher Viardo and Michael Waters – were all on hand and made an impression.

Among the candidates, Lawrence Bonus, an ex-St, Francis of Assisi player turned out to be the tallest among Batch 2008 at 6-foot-6 while Eian Yu, who played for Burger King in the Philippine Basketball League, was the shortest at 5-foot-7.

Rob Reyes, who passed up at last year's draft but could be netted in the first round in next week's proceedings, was measured with the longest wingspan at 201 cm while Mercado, Harbour City's smart guard, submitted the fastest time in the 60-meter sprint run with a time of 7.97 seconds. Michael Alexander Dizon, who played for various teams in the PBL, recorded the highest vertical leap of 11 feet and 3 inches and made the most push ups with 73 while Yu was tops in sit ups with 311. *(www.pba.com.ph)*

SIMON

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In the Queen of the Lanes, January winner Camacho took the pole position away from Day 1 leader and July winner Elena Soll to top the August roll-off.

Camacho, long regarded the top women's bowler on the island, brought out her A game Monday to finish with a 704 pinfall total, good for a 176 average. She made up for a lackluster 154 start, by connecting on 196, 172, and 182 pins in her final three rolls.

Diane Chong, meanwhile, also leapfrogged past Soll in the August race after totaling 671 and averaging 167.75. She registered a four-game series of 192, 147, 180, and 152.

Soll settled for second runner-up honors after blasting 663 pinfalls—good for a 165.55 average—built around rolls of 177, 166, 172, and 148.

For finishing in the Top 3 of the women's division, Camacho, Chong, and Soll pocketed $50, $25, and $215, respectively.

The August King and Queen of the Lanes attracted a total of 36 entries. The monthly competition is organized by Saipan Bowling Association and is sponsored by MARPAC.

Last Sunday, Raphael Zapanta won his sixth Bing Prince/Princess of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament of 2008 after besting a field of six other youth bowlers with a 737 pinfall total and 184.25 average. The 13-year-old Chacha Junior High School student also won in the February, March, May, June, and July competitions of the monthly youth roll-off.

MOST

From Page 28

It was leading, 8-3, at the top of the seventh inning when darkness filled the ballfield, forcing the cancellation of the game for the nth time.

The continuation of Game 4 was set for Aug. 22, but was cancelled anew due to a soggy field.

Monday night, Rock Steady clinched Game 4 with an 8-4 victory, to tie the series. Game 5 was scheduled on the same day, but the power went off around 8pm with the Rangers leading, 2-1, at the top of the third inning.

"This rolling power outage has affected the momentum of the players. We won Game 4 and our players' morale is high, then the game was suspended," Rock Steady coach Joey Dela Cruz said.

"The unpredictable schedule of power outages has really affected both teams. We started with 25 players on our roster, but come Saturday for Game 5, we may be left with only 11 players," he added.

Dela Cruz said some players who live far from the "Tan Ko" Ballfield decided not to attend the games because they are suspended frequently.

"They spent a substantial amount for gas and food to attend the game, only to go home with the match unfinished," said Dela Cruz, who has players leaving off-island before Saturday's Game 5.

League coordinator Tony Rogolifoi said Game 5 will be played at 10am.

This time, the Rangers and Rock Steady don't care if the power goes off or not.

TWO

From Page 28

first game, but went into cruise control against the G-Stars.

The Sonics' much deeper bench proved to be too much for the young crew of the G-Stars, which absorbed their second consecutive loss after bowing to the San Antonio Sixers in their debut last week.

Manuel Ajoste, who nailed 19 points against the Junior Nationals, was at the forefront of the Sonics' offense anew, hitting 17 markers.

The Sonics drew contributions from 11 other players and had only one member of the team failing to score. Noel Soria chipped in 11, Leo Garase made nine, Bryan Ajoste added eight, and six players netter four markers apiece.

Soria drilled nine of his total points in the first half, which saw the Sonics pulling away early with a 42-28 halftime lead. Manuel Ajoste scored the Sonics' first and earned most of his points in the first half from the free throw line to give the team a 14-point advantage at the break.

Byran Ajoste, who was held to one field goal in the first half, found his mark in the second, while Galarse nailed all his points in the last 20 minutes of the match to lift the Sonics to a 32-point win.

Nate Mateo paced the G-Stars with 12 points, but had only two field goals in the second half, on which the Jose Tumaquip-coached squad failed to make headway losing their bid for an upset win. Joseph Jung contributed 10, but scored only one free throw in the second half.

Sonics 81 – M. Ajoste 17, Soria 11, Galarse 9, B. Ajoste 8, Hocog 8, Chan 4, Masga 4, Metran 4, Echon 4, Villanueva 4, Salas 4, Dela Cruz 2, Ecalnea 2.

G-Stars 49 – N. Mateo 12, Jung 10, D. Mateo 8, L.Rangamar 5, Sablan 4, Ichihara 4, Kautz 2, Palacios 2, S. Rangamar 2.

Scoring by halves: 42-28, 81-49.

Referees: Arnold Mesa and Gilbert Espinosa.

REGISTRATION

From Page 28

championship.

Shell Marianas, which is composed of players from No Ka Oi topped he first qualifier. No Ka Oi ruled the 2008 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds Softball Tournament in the last three years.

The first qualifying tournament winner also won the second qualifier early this month, but tournament rules do not allow repeat winners to qualify twice, thus runner-up Natibu took the second qualifying berth.

Third and fourth placers in the first two qualifiers advanced to the wild card phase. They were SaiPal Total Chaos, Sufa and On the Rox.

The wild card round is scheduled for Oct. 4 and 5 and will not require teams to pay an entrance fee. Registration fee for regular qualifying tournament is $150.

The wild card phase will have a single-elimination format with the winner joining Shell Marianas, Natibu, and the top placer of the third qualifier in the Saipan leg championship set for Oct. 11 and 12.

All games will be played at the Capital Hill Ballfield with qualifying teams playing in a double-elimination championship round.

For more information, contact Joey Dela Cruz at 664-2503 or 287-6509.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	79	50	.612	_
Boston	75	55	.577	4 1/2
New York	70	60	.538	9 1/2
Toronto	67	63	.515	12 1/2
Baltimore	62	69	.473	18

Central Division

Chicago	75	56	.573	_
Minnesota	74	57	.565	1
Detroit	64	67	.489	11
Cleveland	63	67	.485	11 1/2
Kansas City	56	75	.427	19

West Division

Los Angeles	79	51	.608	_
Texas	64	68	.485	16
Oakland	60	71	.458	19 1/2
Seattle	49	82	.374	30 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	73	59	.553	_
Philadelphia	72	59	.550	1/2
Florida	67	64	.511	5 1/2
Atlanta	57	74	.435	15 1/2
Washington	46	85	.351	26 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	81	50	.618	_
Milwaukee	76	55	.580	5
St. Louis	73	59	.553	8 1/2
Houston	66	65	.504	15
Cincinnati	57	74	.435	24
Pittsburgh	57	74	.435	24

West Division

Arizona	68	63	.519	_
Los Angeles	65	66	.496	3
Colorado	62	71	.466	7
San Francisco	58	73	.443	10
San Diego	49	82	.374	19

Yesterday's Games

Chicago Cubs 12, Pittsburgh 3
Philadelphia 5, L.A. Dodgers 0
N.Y. Mets 9, Houston 1
San Diego 4, Arizona 2
Colorado 4, San Francisco 2
Baltimore 4, Chicago White Sox 3, 14 innings, comp. of susp. game
Cleveland 4, Detroit 3, 10 innings
Chicago White Sox 4, Baltimore 3
Texas 9, Kansas City 4
Oakland 2, L.A. Angels 1
Seattle 4, Minnesota 2, 11 inning

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

Rotary Standings

Southern Sonics	2	0
G-Rollers I	1	0
San Antonio Sixers	1	0
Kontenders	1	0
CNMI Jr. Nationals	0	1
Suns	0	1
G-Rollers II	0	1
G-Stars	0	2

Villanueva victorious in 'big money' 8-ball

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Rolly Villanueva made hay while the sun shone, winning the Top Pool Bar Professional 8-Ball Billiards Tournament last Saturday at the Garapan sports bar and watering hole.

With top pool sharks Roger "The Ghost" Espiritu, Jerry Soriano, and Zheng Jian Qing barred from playing, Villanueva was clearly a class above everyone and beat Don Antonio in five games in the championship round to win the supposedly big money tournament, which drew only eight participants.

Villanueva got off on the right foot by winning his opening round assignment against Juancho Mendoza, 3-2.

Other results in the first round saw Rey Pinangay beat Dave Peter, 3-2; Jojo Talibong scuttle Nolan Cultura, 3-1; and Antonio take down Rio Sawhill, 3-1.

The second round was tight as it could be with the remaining four cue artists battling tooth and nail for a slot in the championship round.

In the end, Villanueva and Antonio had more moxie than their semifinal opponents and advanced to the finals opposite each another. Villanueva needed the full five games to nip Pinangay, while Antonio also needed a 3-2 close shave in eliminating Talibong.

In the match for all the marbles, Antonio gave the more experienced Villanueva all sorts of trouble winning two games before the latter finally prevailed in a count of 3-2.

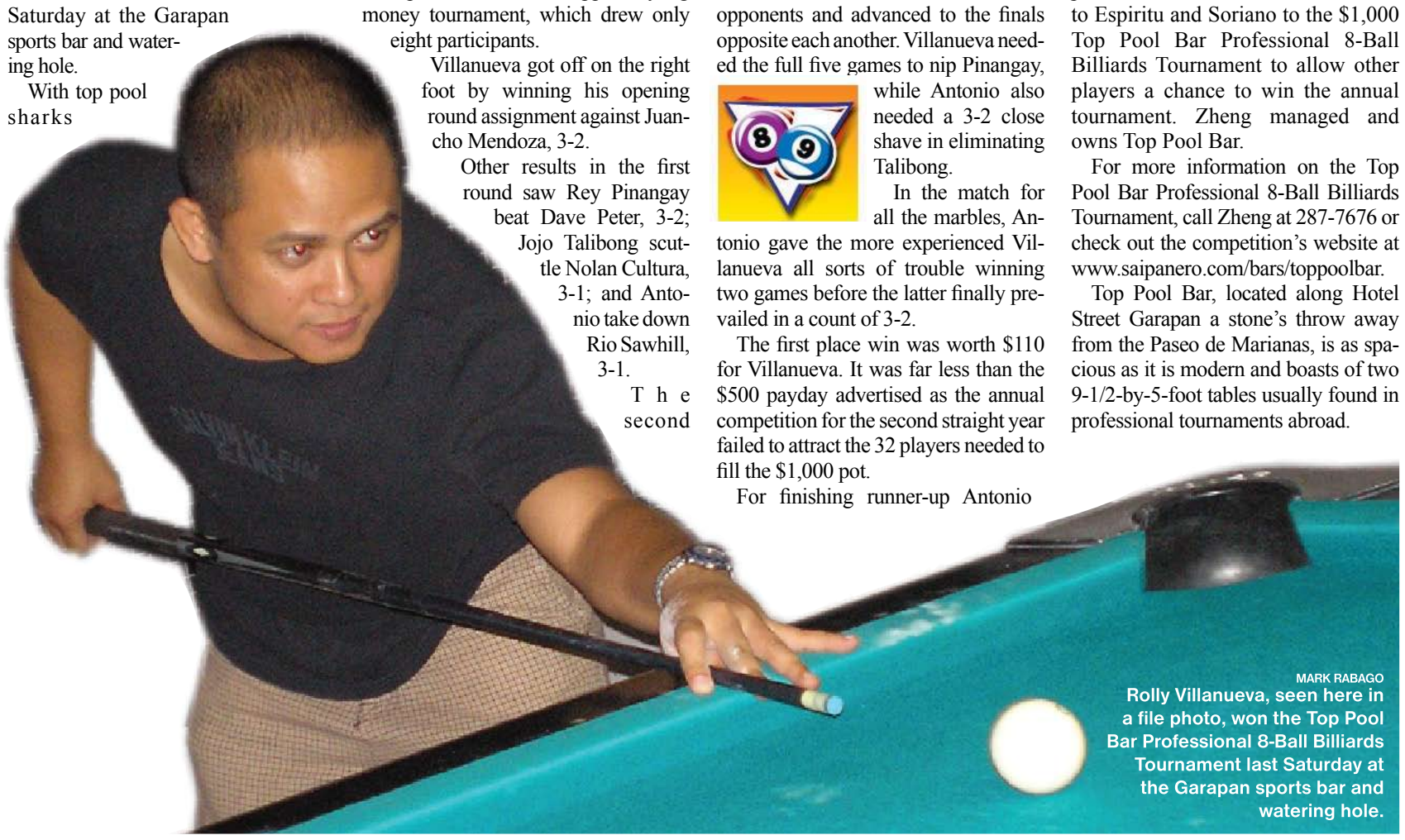
The first place win was worth $110 for Villanueva. It was far less than the $500 payday advertised as the annual competition for the second straight year failed to attract the 32 players needed to fill the $1,000 pot.

For finishing runner-up Antonio took home $80, while Talibong got $50 for winning third place following another 3-2 close victory against eventual fourth-placer Pinangay.

Zheng took himself out of the competition and didn't extend invitations to Espiritu and Soriano to the $1,000 Top Pool Bar Professional 8-Ball Billiards Tournament to allow other players a chance to win the annual tournament. Zheng managed and owns Top Pool Bar.

For more information on the Top Pool Bar Professional 8-Ball Billiards Tournament, call Zheng at 287-7676 or check out the competition's website at www.saipanero.com/bars/toppoolbar.

Top Pool Bar, located along Hotel Street Garapan a stone's throw away from the Paseo de Marianas, is as spacious as it is modern and boasts of two 9-1/2-by-5-foot tables usually found in professional tournaments abroad.



MARK RABAGO
Rolly Villanueva, seen here in a file photo, won the Top Pool Bar Professional 8-Ball Billiards Tournament last Saturday at the Garapan sports bar and watering hole.

MIFICPA bowling tourney on Sept. 14

Members of the Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants will take a break from their number-crunching ways and will host a bowling tournament this coming Sept. 14 at the Capital Bowling Center.

According to the club's public information officer Benjie Ganapin, the competition will be open for MIFICPA members and non-members alike.

Ganapin

"We're inviting everyone, MIFICPA members, non-members, and associates. Have fun bowling!" he said.

The one-day tournament starts at 1pm and those interested need to email or call organizers in advance to allow MIFICPA to assign players into groups. Cost to enter is free of charge, said Ganapin.

Interested players should email their names to MIFICPA president Irene Santiago at irene_santiago@shirleyscoffeeshopsaipan.com or to Benjie Ganapain at bhnjit@yahoo.com. They can also call Lois at 235-9322 or Rene at 234-0906. Entries must be in on or before the Sept. 12 cut-off date.

Ganapin also added that MIFICPA will be printing souvenir T-shirts for the event at only $5. ***(Mark Rabago)***

'08 Club Elan Beach Volleyball tournament set this August 30

MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The 2008 Club Elan Beach Volleyball Tournament will be served this Saturday, Aug. 30, at the sand courts of the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

According to Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association president Laurie Peterka, the annual four-person co-ed beach volleyball tournament, which started in 2003, will have two divisions—adult four-person co-ed competition and 14-under four-person co-ed competition.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association and Hyatt Regency Saipan will host the 2008 Club Elan Beach Volleyball Tournament this coming Saturday, Aug. 30, on the sand courts of the Garapan landmark.

Registration for the adult category of the spike-fest is at 8am with games kicking off an hour later at 9am. Entry fee is $15 for NMIVA members and an extra $5 for non-members.

Those taking part in the 14-under age group, meanwhile, will have to register at 9:30am with games starting at 10:30am. Entry fee is $10 for NMIVA members, while those not affiliated with the sports body need to fork over $15.

Applications are available at Club Elan and for more information, call 234-1234 and ask for Lucio or Robin. NMIVA board members Peterka and Russ Quinn can also be reached at 483-7499 (laurie.peterka@saipan.com) and 287-0318 (saipanruss@yahoo.com), respectively.

All players will receive complimentary usage of Club Elan facilities, that includes the swimming pool, sauna, spa, outdoor Jacuzzi, and locker rooms, as well as assorted food and beverages for taking part in the one-day tourney.

Last year, Hot Rocks and Masmaolek ruled the two divisions of the 2007 Club Elan Four-Person Beach Volleyball Tournament.

Hot Rocks scored an 11-2 rout of Two Attorneys, A Car Guy, And Two Honest Folks in the finals to claim the adults 18-and-over division, while Masmaolek defeated the Teen Titans, 15-11, in the 14-and-under age group.

NMIVA is the CNMI's umbrella volleyball association covering all aspects of indoor and outdoor games and players. NMIVA is a bona fide current member of FIVB and NMASA.

All of the organization's fundraisers put money into the development of volleyball in the CNMI. NMIVA is encouraging volleyball enthusiasts to become a member today for a mere $20 a year. Members get regular email updates and discounts on all NMIVA-sanctioned volleyball events throughout the year.

HANMI Cup eyes late October start

MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Coordinator Lito "William" Espino is eyeing a late October start for the 3rd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League.

The Aqua Resort Club restaurant supervisor said the kick-off date is an ideal one because it would mean that the league would probably end in January or February.

Espino said while a usual single-elimination basketball league takes three to four months to finish, the HANMI Cup is unique since organizers need to make room for tourist busy seasons.

In this case, December would pretty much be a month where only a handful of games will be played in the HANMI Cup, which is why Espino is looking at the championship series to start and end in late January or early February.

Espino said, so far, a total of seven teams have signified their interest in joining the competition.

They are led by defending champion Fiesta Resort and Spa-Saipan Grand Hotel, last year's runner-up PIC, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Saipan World Resort, Hafadai Beach Hotel, Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel, and returning Palms Resort Saipan, the former Hotel Nikko Saipan. Inaugural champion Aqua Resort Club decided not to enter a team this year.

Like the previous two editions of the HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League, the 2008-2009 season will be organized by the Northern Marianas Bartenders Association, where Espino is president.

For more information about the 3rd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League, call Espino at 323-1135.

After Aqua Resort Club won in 2007, the HANMI Cup went through a rollercoaster season in its second year, which saw the combined Fiesta Resort and Spa and Saipan Grand Hotel team take home the title to the delight of its fans and employees.

Led by the high-scoring duo of Ryan Sanciangco and Elmer Esdrelon, the Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc. quintet defeated PIC in the winner-take-all finals last April, 87-72.

The game saw Fiesta-Grand draw 57 points from Sanciango and Esdrelon, while PIC was led by the 18 markers of Derrick Tudela.

On other side of the emotional spectrum, the 2007-2008 season witnessed the death of veteran cager Rick Alegre of Aqua Resort during an elimination game against Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The league was postponed for a week to allow players to mourn for Alegre, who won a number of most valuable player awards not to mention championships with his mother team, Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense, in the United Filipino Organization's yearly basketball leagues.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
League coordinator Lito "William" Espino poses with trophies of last year's HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League. Espino is eyeing a late October start for the competition's 2008-2009 season.

Villanueva victorious in 'big money' 8-ball

Rolly Villanueva made hay while the sun shone, winning the Top Pool Bar Professional 8-Ball Billiards Tournament last Saturday at the Garapan sports bar and watering hole.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Olympic champs Nadal, Dementieva win at US Open

Olympic champions Rafael Nadal and Elena Dementieva showed their mettle at the U.S. Open, overcoming early challenges to win Monday.

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Simon, Diane top monthly roll-offs

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

August King of the Lanes Simon Manacop, left, poses with second runner-up Raymond Angeles after the roll-off last Monday at the Capital Bowling Center.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

August Queen of the Lanes Diane Camacho is flanked by runners-up Diana Chong, right, and Elena Soll after the competition at the Capital Bowling Center Monday.

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Simon Manacop and Diane Camacho won their third and second Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling tournaments of the year, respectively, at the conclusion of the August roll-off last Monday at the Capital Bowling Center.

Manacop added the August plum to those he already won in March and June after firing a pinfall total of 851 (212.75 average) last Sunday.

The Department of Public Safety officer opened up with three straight 200-plus games (244, 241, and 201) in Day 1 of the competition before tapering off a bit with a lowly 165 in the fourth game

Fellow Sunday rollers Kitz Barja and Raymond Angeles came in second and third. Barja wound up with a 757 total and 189.25 average after a rollercoaster performance of 205, 165, 206, and 181 in the four-game series.

Angeles, for his part, mirrored the Micronesian Brokers, Inc. general manager's up-and-down campaign after the youth bowler came away with scores of 150, 209, 172, and 181.

Manacop, Barja, and Angeles went home $100, $40, and $25 richer for their performances in the King of the Lanes.

Completing the Top 5 in the men's division were perfect bowler Dannie Robles and steady veteran Orlie Ebuen. Robles finished with a 740 pinfall total and 185 average, while Ebuen was good for 680 and 170.

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'Most stretched-out' SML title series to end Saturday

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

This one is for the record books.

The ongoing championship round in the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League baseball tournament has been the most stretched-out final series in the SML history, according to Bob Coldeen.

"The league started in 1982 and as far as I can remember, this is the most stretch-out title series in SML," said Coldeen, author of a book about CNMI baseball and has been covering games in the Commonwealth's ballfields for more than two decades.

The historic title showdown between the Ford Rangers and Rock Steady will take four more days to wrap up.

No thanks to the rolling power outages, the series will be completed after 20 days.

The best-of-five championship series started on Aug. 11 and will conclude this Saturday with the deciding Game 5 to be played at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Rangers stunned the then undefeated Rock Steady in Game 1, 15-10, on Aug. 11.

Only Game 1 was completed in one playing night.

Game 2 was played Aug. 13, but was suspended when the power went off at the top of the seventh inning with Rock Steady leading, 10-3.

The continuation of Game 2 was set for Aug. 14 and the win was awarded to Rock Steady, as the Rangers showed up for the match with only eight players.

Game 3 was scheduled for Aug. 17 and was suspended due to a power outage at the top of the ninth winning with the Rangers and Rock Steady tied at 6-all.

The third game of the series resumed Aug. 19 with the Rangers escaping with a 9-6 victory in the 10th inning, moving them a win away from clinching the crown.

Game 4 was played a few minutes after Game 3 finished.

Rock Steady was pressed to win Game 4 to force a deciding Game 5.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Southern Sonics' Noel Soria goes for a reverse layup against the CNMI Junior Nationals' Marvin Rabauliman during the opening game in the Rotary caging last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym. The Sonics beat the Junior Nationals and gained their second victory after downing the G-Stars Monday night.

Two in a row for Southern Sonics

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Southern Sonics rolled to their second straight win in the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League after clobbering the G-Stars, 81-4, Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Sonics won their debut and early rematch with the CNMI Junior Nationals last week, 71-64, and the victory over the G-Stars gave them the solo lead in the eight-team cage competition.

The Jesse Tudela-mentored struggled against the Junior Nationals in their

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Registration on for King and Queen of the Diamonds qualifier

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Registration for the 2008 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds Softball qualifying leg of the 2008 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds Softball Tournament is ongoing and interested teams have two more weeks to prepare and join the event set for Sept. 13 and 14.

"We are inviting teams to participate in the tournament and try to earn the right to represent Saipan in the 'Tournament of Champions' in Palau," coordinator Joey Dela Cruz said.

Next month's tournament will be the third qualifier for the Saipan leg. Winners of the three qualifiers and the wild card phase will slug it out in the Saipan championships in October. The champion team of the Saipan leg will then compete in the Tournament of Champions against Guam and Palau in November.

So far, Shell Marianas and Natibu had already qualified for the Saipan

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